Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-141 *25 July 1989*

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Cuba

Former Transportation Minister Sentenced

FL2407115389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] After a judicial hearing that, from 20 to 21 July, reviewed Case No 2651 of 1989, Havana's Provincial People's Tribunal sentenced Diocles Torralba Gonzalez, former vice president of the Council of Ministers and former transportation minister, to 20 years imprisonment as well as confiscating his illegally obtained goods.

The accused was arrested on 13 June when he was charged with embezzling, abuse of authority, unlawful use of financial and material resources, illicit occupation and administering of buildings, and falsifying public documents. Torralba Gonzalez was also accused of having a corrupt, wasteful, and dissolute personal conduct.

During the hearing of case No 2651 of 1989, 21 witnesses testified. The testimonies came from high-ranking officials of the MITRANS [Transportation Ministry], as well as the audit team from the State Finance Committee. From the latter, the tribunal was able to learn of the uncontrolled and [words indistinct] state that existed in the MITRANS during Torralba Gonzalez's time as minister.

The sentence given the accused—20 years imprisonment and confiscating the illegally obtained goods—is based on evidence which proves that the accused was involved in crimes including transferring means and resources of [words indistinct], embezzling convertible currency, illegal transfer of financial resources, [words indistinct] of 200 cars, and [words indistinct] among other crimes, some of which are related to his wasteful life.

Havana's Provincial People's Tribunal also decided to begin proceedings against five other MITRANS officials who—during the present investigation—were shown to have been involved in acts of a criminal nature.

GRANMA Gives Details

FL2407135989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1302 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] After a judicial process was held between 20 and 21 July to hear Case No 2651 of 1989, the Havana City Provincial People's Tribunal sentenced the former vice president of the Council of Ministers and former transportation minister, Diocles Torralba Gonzalez, to 20 years in prison. The tribunal also handed down an additional sanction allowing for the confiscation of goods that Torralba Gonzalez obtained illegally.

The case was based on charges of embezzlement, abuse of authority, illegal use of financial and material resources, illicit appropriation and disposal of buildings and properties, and the falsification of public documents.

The information published today in the GRANMA newspaper reports that Torralba was dismissed from his position and arrested on 13 June.

The Havana City Provincial People's Tribunal, presided over by Dr Danilo Rivero Garcia, and comprised of Judges Roberto Morales San Sebastian, (Margarita Feria Abrez), (Maison Montano Bercot), and (Rita Morgan Fenton), based Torralba's sentence primarily on the proven criminal acts of embezzlement, illegal use of financial and material resources, and the abuse of authority.

GRANMA reports that at the time of the accused's arrest, he had also been denounced for maintaining a personal behavior that was described as being corrupt, dissipated, and dissolute, which was made clear during the presentation of the evidence.

At the request of the Prosecutor's Ministry [as heard] and based on the decision made by the tribunal, it was agreed to begin investigations and criminal proceedings against five other Transportation Ministry [MITRANS] officials who, appearing voluntarily as witnesses, admitted their guilt and serious shortcomings associated with some of the crimes that have been committed.

The article published by the official organ says that in his preliminary conclusions, the prosecutor called for 20 years loss of freedom [de privacion de libertad] and the aforementioned additional sanction for Torralba Gonzalez for the crimes stated in the case, which include the transfer of means and resources of the people for the accused's own personal enjoyment, embezzlement of convertible currency, and the illicit transfer of financial resources in activities that were not authorized.

Another crime that was proven in the case against Diocles Torralba is the acquisition with the use of convertible currency of 200 cars and their subsequent and arbitrary (?distribution), a shortcoming which, along with his others, was related to the accused's practice of maintaining his dissolute life-style with state goods and resources.

The GRANMA article says that during the first session of the oral hearing, Torralba Gonzalez admitted his immoral errors. He added that his actions were not due to a lack of good advice. He also admitted, but less frankly, that he committed crimes in the carrying out of his public functions, including the transfer of state means and resources for his personal enjoyment in the home of citizen (Hidalberto Galvez Richardson) where he was residing at the time of his detention.

In another part of his statement to the Havana City Provincial People's Tribunal, Torralba acknowledged that he disposed of unused per diem allowances and other types of currency which he did not close out [liquido] as is legally required. In reference to the 200 cars that were purchased for more than $840,000, he said

they were bought with money from the minister's reserve fund but it was later confirmed that the vehicles were illegally attained with funds from two MITRANS enterprises that operated abroad.

After the accused's remarks, the oral hearing was then open to the presentation of documented evidence. Ten witnesses then spoke during the first session.

During the second session of the hearing, the disorder and lack of control that prevailed in the MITRANS during the administration of Torralba Gonzalez was made evident. An act that was reiterated during testimonies was the astronomical (?waste) and other convertible currency expenses that the accused justified as being for official missions.

The degree of insensibility of those who testified was also evident when one of them said that he thought ministers did not have to justify their expenses.

For their part, the auditors currently have only been able to uncover a third of what they think Torralba embezzled. They say that the illegal use of the Cuban state's financial resources and embezzlement has been clearly demonstrated.

UNESCO Director General Visits Trinidad City

FL2407123589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The historic area of Trinidad City and its valley of sugar mills have been officially declared patrimony of humanity in a ceremony that took place in the main square which was founded in 1514.

The ceremony was attended by Mr Federico Mayor Zaragoza, director general of the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. The program included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and a cultural party to celebrate the city's new status as patrimony of humanity. This declaration was agreed upon last December in the meeting held by the international organization in Brasilia, capital of Brazil.

The old part of the city, one of seven founded by the colonists, is still in its original condition, thanks to the maintenance efforts carried out throughout the years.

Holds News Conference

FL2407232289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1954 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Members of the National Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development met with UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor Zaragoza at the University of Havana's main hall today at noon. University Rector Fernando Rojas welcomed the UN leader. Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos handed Mayor Zaragoza a notebook containing the work carried out by the national committee. Mayor expressed his appreciation for being handed the work plan our country is conducting. He reported UNESCO's plans to meet not only the cultural needs of the countries but also of men. He also noted UNESCO's interest on the solving of environmental problems.

During a news conference, UNESCO's director general reported the results of his visit to our country which ends today. Responding to a question regarding a U.S. plan to operate an anti-Cuban television channel, Mayor Zagaroza said UNESCO favors the free flow of information but cannot accept interference.

Hc characterized as positive the proposal for the UNESCO COURIER to dedicate one of its issues to Cuba and supported the idea for national scientific centers gain access to the bibliographic information system.

The Paris-based organization will also promote the attention to projects in the Havana Bay, Trinidad's sugar mills valley, and others.

Ends Visit; Leaves for Panama

FL2507013089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] UNESCO Director General Mr Federico Mayor Zaragoza left for Panama today after declaring village of Trinidad and the valley of sugar mills cultural patrimony of humanity. In this way, he ended his visit to our country. An aid and memorial protocol was signed at the end of his visit. The protocol identifies the concrete goals and actions which will strengthen the existing cooperation between Cuba and UNESCO in the areas of education, science, culture, and communications.

The prominent Spanish biologist was seen off by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and minister of culture. Representatives of UNESCO agencies and figures of the Cuban culture and government also were at the airport.

Mayor Zaragoza met with the press and discussed matters of interest, such as the beaming of a television channel toward another country's television range.

[Begin Mayor Zaragoza recording] In effect, in the Constitution itself, in the part that says UNESCO should promote peace through education, science, and culture, it is very curious that the first chapter says—in the provision's Article 1, after the preamble—UNESCO will guarantee the free flow of information through images and words. UNESCO should favor everything that is free information flow. The organization cannot favor interference, which is what you are suggesting in the case you just mentioned. [end recording]

Mayor Zaragoza and culture figures and Committee of the Decade in Favor of the Cultural Development of Humankind also met at the University of Havana's main hall.

Malmierca Bestows Medal on Polish Ambassador
FL2507020589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Our country's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has presided over the ceremony to bestow the Friendship Medal, conferred by the Council of State, to Czeslaw Dega, Polish People's Republic ambassador to Cuba. [Video shows Malmierca pinning medal on ambassador's lapel.] Malmierca noted that the links between the two peoples are very old and have been characterized by the fraternity in the achievement of Cuban independence. He stated that Dega's work as ambassador here is in line with this tradition.

It was learned during the decoration ceremony that the diplomat, who will soon end his mission in Cuba, has also been the recipient of awards conferred by the DPRK and Vietnam.

In his appreciation remarks, the ambassador said the Friendship Medal is something symbolic in his life and also a recognition to the Polish people and those who have worked with him in the embassy.

Namibian Students Leave Isle of Youth
FL2507024889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The first group of Namibian students who studied on Isle of Youth have already left the territory. The confidence in the future characterizes the trip to their fatherland.

Greetings comrades. A large group of Namibian children arrived on Isle of Youth in 1978. Some of them were survivers of the Casinga massacre. They return to their country today as part of the agreements of the UN Resolution 435. This is the first group of Namibians who study on Isle of Youth to leave. They return at a crucial time in the history of their fatherland, in the middle of an electoral process for the installation of a Namibian Government after over 70 years of South African domination.

[Begin recording of first unidentified Namibian student] We are sure that SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] will win the elections at least by a two-thirds majority vote. The future of my country would then be bright because we know the kind of government SWAPO is going to install in Namibia, a popular and democratic government. [end recording]

After 10 years in Cuba, they return with their songs and customs but many of them are technicians or have completed a mid-level or higher education.

[Begin recording of second unidentified Namibian student] I learned how to live and love during all the years I spent in Cuba. I feel more Namibian now that I am leaving for Namibia as an educated man, as a man capable of making efforts and sacrifices for my people. [end recording]

The people of Isle of Youth, together with thousands of young people of Third World countries studying here, bid farewell to this group of Namibians with the hope of a brilliant future for Namibia and the certainty that the nostalgia of this good-bye is only a proof of the beautiful ties that true solidarity brings.

Commentary on ARENA, Dialogue With FMLN
PA2507005889 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 89

["Our America" commentary read by Julio Dominguez]

[Text] Confronted with increased guerrilla actions, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], the ruling party in El Salvador, is now supposedly promoting a dialogue with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] as a way to counter international criticism of the Salvadoran Government's initial arrogant attitude toward beginning a dialogue with the rebels. The FMLN had expressed its willingness to discuss the chance for peace in El Salvador, if the regime approaches the dialogue with serious intentions and does not use it merely for propaganda purposes.

Appropriate conditions for holding peace talks do not currently exist because the rebels did not fall for President Alfredo Cristiani's political manipulations. Furthermore, there are no indications that ARENA's proposals would revive the negotiation process, and this is particularly true because El Salvador's extreme right wing and the Armed Forces have different positions. The government's attempts to hold a round of rigged negotiations, after having first rejected the offer to hold peace talks, demonstrate that the Salvadoran regime only wants to change the image of the extreme right wing in order to get more economic and military aid from the U.S. Congress.

The rebels believe that the repression of the people's movement and the dirty war waged by the death squads are not creating the proper climate for negotiations and in fact work against the chance of negotiations taking place. For its part, the people's movement itself is seeking unity among the social forces and opposition parties to pave the way for a peace negotiation among the sides at war. The newly created Permanent Committee for Peace is supported by the Catholic Church because, in the opinion of Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, it offers hope for ending the war.

The FMLN favors these contacts among the country's social organizations. A short time ago the FMLN held a meeting in Panama with the Permanent Committee for National Debate, which comprises 60 trade union, business, church, and university organizations and institutions.

The spiraling repression, economic instability, and persistent U.S. meddling in El Salvador lead many sectors to seriously consider the possibility of forming a broadly based opposition front which, with growing force, could exert pressure to hold a true dialogue to find a solution to the internal conflict. The unity of these forces could present a viable means of finding a solution to the situation in El Salvador. Repression cannot stop a huge and unified mass of opponents to the regime established by ARENA and supported by the United States.

Caribbean Affairs

Expanded TV Coverage Reported in Region

FL2407162689 Bridgetown CANA in English 0234 GMT 22 Jul 89

[By Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 22, CANA—Caribbean people are seeing and hearing much more of each other regularly on televison - for the first time since countries started gaining independence in the early 1960's.

Jamaicans are learning how Vincentians benefit from whaling, Trinidadians, well-known for their Calypso festival, are seeing carnival in Curacao and there's a regular supply of political happenings for everyone.

"In smaller islands never before has anybody seen a television picture from any other island," said West German consultant to the regional television project Michael Abend.

The three anglophone territories of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dutch-speaking Curacao are linked under the daily news exchange programme, Caribvision, thanks in part to favourable rates from the international telecommunications company, Intelsat, and the national telecom companies.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines get the exchanged material on tape by courier services.

Another project, also funded by the West German organisation, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, which has been playing a leading role in media development in the Caribbean, is Caribscope. This tape exchange half-hour programme has its focus on political and social developments, and cultural events and is also a co-operation effort, by 17 stations. The two-tier project is a response to regional urgings for more Caribbean material in the face of a heavy diet of mostly United States-imported television programming across the region.

"I think slowly the governments are realising what an impact our project is having on regional integration," Abend said.

"So people in customs and immigration welcome us and start to talk about Caribscope and Caribvision and they tell us how happy they are that they now see picures from other countries, and I think slowly also the governments realise that."

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union [CBU] had in the past organised a news exchange between three countries three days a week.

The two West German-financed programmes are co-ordinated at the headquarters of the Barbados-based CBU which links regional broadcast systems.

Abend told CANA the CBU is planning to request a two-year extension of funding and consultancy when it ends in May next year. He also says there has been contact with Martinique, and interest shown from French Guiana and Haiti in participating in the project.

By next May, the consultant says, he hopes the Daily News Exchange, which began in March last year, and Caribscope, will be shown in more territories, and contributions from T.V. stations will also have risen.

The CBU announced in June that Caribvision was being distributed throughout the Caribbean under an agreement with the United States domestic satellite system, Westar, for a trial period of one month. Prior to the start-up of the trial programme only Jamaica, Barbados, Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago received the 15-minute telecast regularly.

Tnese four television systems have the earth stations in place for the up-link and down-link transmission of Caribvision via Intelsat.

The Eastern Caribbean territories do not have the earth-station capabilities to do this, but can receive the Westar signal.

The University of the West Indies was the centre of a bit of history in May when its convocation ceremony was transmitted live in many Caribbean countries by combination of the two satellites.

Abend notes that satellite transmission is expensive business. It costs each of the four participating stations in Caribvision about U.S.35,000 dollars annually to run the service. The distribution via Westar had to be cut off after the trial period becuase not enough T.V. stations were prepared to share the costs.

In July, the CBU co-ordinated same-day coverage of the 10th Caricom [Caribbean Community] summit in Grenada, using both the Intelsat and Westar systems.

The West German consultant says during the trial period Televisa in Mexico, C.B.C. [no futher expansion given] and a cable television in Toronto, Canada and Visnews in New York have been among the overseas systems viewing the Caribvision programme.

The CBU, formed in 1970, hopes to sell Caribvision and Caribscope programmes abroad. It has also been working to improve production quality and co-ordination through a training project started in April. Each month a producer from the Caribbean is attached to the CBU headquarters to improve techniques, to assist co-ordinator Debra Johnson, and to get "hands-on" experience in the co-ordination of the project.

The CBU has been seeking duty-free concessions from Caricom governments to allow for a smooth running of the project, which involves an exchange of tapes and importation of equipment "gifts" under F.E.S. [no further expansion given] financing.

Trinidad and Tobago recently announced it would be providing duty-free concessions to regionally-produced material.

Barbados has granted a duty waiver on all equipment and material imported under the CBU-FES-project.

Abend, who has been working with the project steadily since September last year, says it has made "tremendous progress" but is still very young.

The F.E.S.-financing agreement allows for a minimum of U.S.200,000 dollars annually to be spent on the project.

Abend is confident the project will be renewed for another two years, although a decision has to be taken in Bonn in early 1990.

"I am very confident that because of the success of this project and immense impact for political and cultural life in the Caribbean, this project will be extended for at least two more years," Abend says.

Bahamas

Foreign Minister Voices Support for Haiti

FL2407193289 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The minister of foreign affairs announced that he will join the foreign ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, and Jamaica in a visit to Haiti. The Honorable Charles Carter was speaking during a banquet held in observance of Haitian-Bahamian cultural week. Mr Carter said it is their hope that the visit will improve our understanding of the problems which have become an endemic to Haiti and thus better prepare us to assist Haiti in the international arena in its search for development and technical assistance to redress their economic problems.

Katie Longly reports that Mr Carter also spoke of the Bahamas' mission to assist Haiti with their economic problem.

[Longly] To the boat people of the Caribbean—the illegal Haitians that try to enter our shores and those already here—it may appear that Bahamians have no appreciation for their plight. But according to Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Charles Carter, the Bahamas is painfully aware of Haiti's economic problem and we're also painfully aware that we cannot and should not be expected to serve as a refuge for the [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Mr Carter said that it is for this reason the Bahamas has taken a lead in the regional and international arena in sensitizing the world to the plight of Haiti and to the (?ancient) need to grant help.

[Begin Carter recording] We are all painfully aware that much of Haiti's economic problems, which has given rise to its undocumented immigrants, lies in the (?ancient) need for political and social reforms in that country.

We in the Bahamas recognize, however, that change in Haiti will not come from [words indistinct] from afar. For this reason, the Bahamas Government has decided that it will not join the long tradition of powers who have declared Haiti a political pariah. We will not join the former colonial powers who exorcised Haiti at the time of her independence and, furthermore, we will do our best to encourage others to join us in supporting the aspirations of the Haitian people to a better government and a better economic existence in their own homeland. [end recording]

The minister of foreign affairs pointed out that the Bahamas' commitment to this idea is indicated by the fact that we are the only Caribbean country resident in Haiti and we are still there in spite of the difficult circumstances over the last 2 years. [passage omitted]

Grenada

Reportage on Blaize Breaking With NNP

New Minister Comments

FL2407151889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1520 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 24, CANA—New Grenada Public Utilities Minister Senator Ben Andrews says he would not be wasting time with public sector

employees who remain committed to his sacked predecessor, Dr Keith Mitchell. "If there are people who want to follow the previous minister they can just continue and follow him out," he told CANA.

Mitchell, political leader of the ruling New National Party, along with Minister of State for National Security Larry Joseph were fired on Thursday by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

According to Andrews although he was not embarking on a "witch-hunt and hatred job" no one would be allowed to sabotage the government. "...If people attempt to block the progress of Grenada...they would have to be removed," he said. Andrews stated that there are some people brought into the ministry by Mitchell who should be aware that their continued employment was at an end. "These people were polarized around the previous minister and obviously they cannot serve the ministry," he said.

"I don't think they should wait for action against them. They should show their comradery and move along with him," he added.

Andrews declined to identify these people but sources close to him say that he was pointing to several employees from Mitchell's St George's North-West Constituency.

He also promised to conduct an examination into all statutory boards under the ministry.

Sources close to the new Grenada minister say that Secretary/Manager of the Central Water Commission (CWC) Denis Campbell who is a close relative would be sacked.

Blaize May Attend CDU Meeting

FL2407151689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1605 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 21, CANA—Grenada's prime minister, Herbert Blaize, may attend Saturday's annual general meeting here of the conservative Caribbean Democrat Union (CDU) after all.

Baize told CANA on Friday that CDU Chairman Edward Seaga of Jamaica had been in touch with him trying to persuade him to attend the meeting. "It looks likely that I might accede to his request," he added. The prime minister said he and Seaga are due to meet early on Saturday to discuss the matter further.

He said if he attended the meeting it would not be in his "political position" capacity but more so as an "individual." Earlier in the week, Blaize said that he would not be attending the CDU meeting at which the in-fighting in the ruling New National Party (NNP) government was expected to be the top agenda item.

The Grenadian leader had indicated that the meeting was for leaders of political parties and since he had lost the NNP top job in January he ceased to qualify for CDU membership. Blaize also said that the meeting coincided with his own constituency day on the sister island of Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

The CDU meeting is expected to take on a new tone following Blaize's sacking on Thursday of NNP leader Dr Keith Mitchell from his post of minister of communications, works, and public utilities.

Leader Forms Political Party

FL2407132489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 21, CANA—Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize on Friday night announced the formation of a new political group, the National Party, one day after firing the political leader of the ruling New National Party (NNP) government from his cabinet.

In his weekly radio broadcast to the nation, Blaize said that details of the work programme of the new party would be given shortly. He said the National Party would steer "the ship of state" along the road of progress, peace, and harmony.

No details were given on the membership of the new party, the second political group to be formed on the island this year.

Blaize yesterday fired NNP leader Dr Keith Mitchell along with Minister of State for National Security Senator Larry Joseph, the NNP chairman, accusing them of openly citicising government decisions. The sackings followed months of bitter inter-party feuding after Mitchell snatched the political leadership post from Blaize at the NNP's convention in January. The decision to sever ties with the NNP almost certainly means that Blaize has been assured of support of fight from the nine NNP members of parliament. This would give him a razor-thin 8-7 majority in the House of Representatives.

Blaize said the situation within the NNP had been intolerable since the convention. He pointed specifically at the June 4 islandwide motorcade and rally held by the Mitchell faction which threatened to take Grenada on a "new flight."

Mitchell, in addressing party supporters, promised that there was a "new thrust" within the NNP which intended to embark on a flight aimed at leading people where they wish to go and not dragging them where "we want to take them." He also said that the time had come for the ailing 71-year-old prime minister to give way to young blood.

Blaize told the nation that he regarded Mitchell's statement as a sign that he wanted "to take Grenada into orbit with a new crew."

"There is nothing wrong with new blood at the helm. What is important for the passengers, however, is the safety of the ship, the quality of the crew, the destination, and path of flight," he said. "Many of the passengers who would have wished to take the flight have asked the pilot to examine the horns of his crew," he added.

This is an apparent reference to a compromise offer made by Blaize to Mitchell that he drop two executive members, Prescott Swan and Malcolm Antoine because of their ties with Grenada's former revolutionary leaders who ruled from 1979-83.

Swan was endorsed by the Mitchell group and the caretaker candidate for the St Patrick's West Constituency while Antoine was given the go-ahead for the St Mark's seat currently held by Minister of State for Finance Felix Alexander, a close ally of Blaize.

Mitchell rejected their removal on the grounds that it was the rank and file members of the party who were responsible for electing them.

Blaize accused Mitchell of refusing to heed "the advice of passengers" in his effort to "steer the ship." "We are, therefore, satisfied that the vehicle to take us to this glorious land that is promised is not the new trust of the NNP, he said. "We are also very seriously concerned that we are likely to orbit once more in the 1979-83 period on the new trust flight. It is for this reason that we refuse to be a part of it," he said.

The Grenadian leader in looking back at the 1984 formation of the NNP accused some members of deviating from the path that was agreed on then.

He said that those who came together to form the party had given their solemn undertaking to work together as a unit for the return of "democracy, peace, sanity, and stability to this dear land of ours."

The NNP, a merger of three moderate groups promoted by the U.S. and its Caribbean allies to forestall an extremist election win in the aftermath of revolutionary rule, won a landslide 14-1 victory in the 1984 poll. But the coalition has disintegrated with defections to the opposition benches.

According to Blaize the mandate given to the NNP group was "to bring this country into light from the darkness in which we existed for several years. "We pledged to the nation before God that we would respect the trust and confidence placed in us and work in the pursuit of national happiness and welfare of the nation," he said.

Blaize accused the Mitchell group of embarking upon what he called a campaign to derail the progress "we have worked so diligently and under difficult conditions to put in place."

New Party 'Good as Dead'

FL2407132589 Bridgetown CANA in English 0008 GMT 23 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada July 22, CANA—Sacked Grenada Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell says that a new party formed by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize is as good as dead.

Blaize announced the formation of the National Party (NP) on Friday night, a day after dismissing Mitchell from cabinet and officially breaking with his new national party (NNP). Mitchell, whose defeat of Blaize for the NNP leadership last January precipitated the break, said the new party was nothing but a "tea party" and would never get off the ground. "All it could do is damage the country if we allow it to stay in government too long. It is a total joke," he said.

He said Blaize's decision to defect had helped him since he was contemplating how to disassociate himself from the 71-year-old Grenadian leader. "I think that the New National Party hands would be strengthened now with the distancing from it of elements which were genuinely unpopular," he said.

Mitchell claimed that as a result of Blaize's move there was now "enormous sympathy" among Grenadians for those remaining in the NNP. He stated that the task ahead for him is to translate this into actual political support. "That is where my leadership skills are going to be tested," Mitchell said.

There is uncertainty regarding the number of elected MPS [Ministers of Parliament] supporting Blaize with health and housing minister Danny Williams and Minister of State for Women's Affairs Grace Duncan distancing themselves from the new party.

Prior to Mitchell's sacking, Blaize's government had a 9-6 majority in the House of Representatives.

Parliamentary Leader Reacts

FL2407154389 Bridgetown CANA in English 0012 GMT 23 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Grenada's parliamentary opposition leader George Brizan has scoffed at the electoral prospects of the two groups which have emerged from within the ruling New National Party (NNP) government. He was commenting of Friday

night's decision by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize to form the National Party (NP) and breakaway from the NNP which is led by sacked Public Utilities Minister Keith Mitchell.

Brizan told CANA on Saturday that the two parties can be considered as "marginalized groups" and Grenadians would not waste time in supporting them. Brizan, who is the deputy political leader of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), said he had picking up an anti-Mitchell feeling around the country. He said the only people who seem supportive of Mitchell are a handful of backers in the St Georges North-West Constituency who have benefitted from Mitchell's patronage while he held a ministerial post.

Before forming the NDC in 1987, Brizan was a member of the NNP administration which he served as minister of agriculture. He and several others resigned after disagreeing with Blaize on economic and labour policies.

The NDC has already announced a full slate of 15 candidates for general elections expected no later than March.

Senator Joins National Party

FL2407154889 Bridgetown CANA in English 0014 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Independent Senator and union leader Eric Pierre has become the first person to publicly announce that he is joining the new party formed on Friday by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. Pierre, a long-time political ally of Blaize, told CANA that in due course he would be resigning from the New National Party (NNP) to take up membership with Blaize's National Party (NP). But according to Pierre, [words indistinct] country should know something more about the composition of the NP. He said that those involved in the new party have already done the "groundwork" to put it on stream.

Health Minister Member of NNP

FL2407174189 Bridgetown CANA in English 0030 GMT 23 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Health and Housing Minister Danny Williams has distanced himself from a new party announced on Friday night on state-owned Radio Grenada by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. Williams told CANA that he is still a member of the New National Party (NNP) which Blaize broke away from to form the National Party (NP). "I have been a member of the New National Party, and so far I have not given attention to changing it, he said. According to Williams, the only thing he knows about the new party is what Blaize said about it during his address to nation. He spoke of being in the dark about the party's structure, constitution, manifesto, and executive members.

Williams admitted that the announcement of NP's formation by Blaize would result in a number of adjustments. "...We have to wait and see how things unfold but there must be the need for adjustments," he said.

Williams hinted that there is the possibility that things could get out of hand as a result of the new party's formation. "We know the principle by which we govern and if it gets to the stage where one would be violating the principle by which we operate our systems, then something might have to give way," he said.

Williams was confident that the uncertain political situation now existing would be cleared up in a few months when Grenadians are given a chance to go to the polls. "It's just a matter of time before we have a clear government running this country again," he said.

The Grenada minister, who is a barrister by profession, said that since the party took office in 1984, he had decided to be involved in politics for only one term. "It's not my intention to run for the next general elections anyway," he added.

Gairy Calls for Early Elections

FL2407174789 Bridgetown CANA in English 0039 GMT 23 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy has called for early general elections following Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's decision to break with the ruling New National Party (NNP). Gairy was commenting on Blaize's decision to launch the National Party (NP) and to distance himself from the NNP of sacked Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell.

Gairy, who heads the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), said there was no choice for Blaize other than to call elections since the mandate which the people gave for him to govern was through the NNP.

"If he as prime minister dumps that designation then he has a right to resign right away," said Gairy, who predicted a landslide win for his party.

The parting of ways between Blaize and Mitchell follows months of in-fighting since the change in leadership at the NNP's convention in January.

Gairy said that if Blaize wanted to install an NP government in office he would have to go to the electorate for a mandate. He dismissed the new party's chances of winning even one single seat whenever elections are held. "I don't think people have any respect for them," he said.

In 1984, Blaize merged his Grenada National Party (GNP) with two other moderate groups to form the NNP to contest general elections to return the island to democratic rule after five years of revolutionary government.

Gairy's own GULP managed to pick up only one of the 15 seats in the elections with the NNP taking the rest.

The former prime minister is confident that Grenadians would dismiss the NP whose members are drawn mainly from Blaize's old GNP.

He said: People are not going to have any confidence in that kind of stuff anymore. Who would have confidence in a fragile stuff like the national party again?

"They broke up so many times before. They would break again. They are breakables. We are not breakable. We are solid. All other ground is sinking around us."

Political Instability To Continue

FL2407180489 Bridgetown CANA in English 0040 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Grenada's New National Party (NNP), which dramatically lost control of the government on Friday, is largely unrecognizable from the party which was hastily put together to fight the 1984 elections. The NNP was a merger of three centrist political parties promoted by the United States and its Caribbean allies to forestall an extremist victory at the polls. It won a smashing 14-1 win but it has proved to be an uneasy coalition.

The disintegration of the NNP began with the resignations from the cabinet two years ago of George Brizan and Francis Alexis—the leaders of two of the three founding parties. The collapse of the NNP was virtually complete with the decision of the other leader, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, to break away from the NNP and form a new party, to be called the National Party. The action came a day after he sacked both the NNP political leader Keith Mitchell—who ousted Blaize from the position last January—and its chairman Larry Joseph from their ministerial posts.

According to Blaize, the NNP under Mitchell, had digressed from the path that was set five years ago in Union Island, when the seal on the NNP's formation was set with the assistance of prime ministers of neighbouring Caribbean islands. It was, in essence, a prime minister's admission that he had lost control of the party whose formation depended heavily on his support.

Blaize's latest move, considered inevitable by his opponents, was in the pipeline since June, insiders say, but was delayed because of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government summit in the first week of July.

In addition, Blaize met on Thursday with Mitchell in an apparent last ditch effort to patch things up. But Mitchell turned down Blaize's proposal at a compromise—the removal of two executive members who had close ties with the revolutionary government. He told the prime minister that they had been elected by the rank and file of the party.

By that time, Blaize had already selected an interim seven-member committee to look after the new party. It includes External Affairs Minister Ben Jones as deputy political leader, Education Minister George McGuire as chairman, and Minister of State for Tourism Pauline Andrews as treasurer. Others on the executive are newly appointed Public Utilities Minister Ben Andrews as chief party officer, former diplomat Harry Ogilvie as secretary, with small businessman Cephas Pilgram as his deputy.

Sources said that since the beginning of June, Blaize mandated a five-member group headed by Andrews to put together the new party. One official indicated that a building in St George's has already been selected as the party's headquarters and that the new executive would be moving into it shortly. The party has moved as far as shortlisting 10 candidates for the next election.

That election, which can be delayed as late as March, may now have to be brought forward in view of the uncertainty surrounding the strength of the Blaize administration.

Already the minister of health, Danny Williams, has distanced himself from the party placing Blaize in an uncomfortable position. If Duncan and Williams stick with Mitchell, the administration would become a minority one and likely to fall quickly, with nine of the 15 MP's [ministers of parliament] on the opposition benches.

The other six belong to the National Democratic congress of Brizan and Alexis who enticed Nicholas Brathwaite, interim leader for one year after the invasion, to the NDC by offering him the leadership.

Gairy insists that Blaize must resign immediately, having gained his mandate through the NNP. "If he as prime minister dumps that designation then he has a right to resign right away," Gairy told CANA. He views the new party with contempt, saying that the people will not respect it.

Brizan agreed, saying that the NNP and its second offshoot are "marginalised" groups.

Grenada, whose politics continue to startle the rest of the region, is in for another period of instability, for the short term at least.

Andrews Called 'Powerful Man'

FL2407195189 Bridgetown CANA in English 0051 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] St George's, Grenada, July 22, CANA—Ben Andrews, a burly 45-year-old father of 11, has emerged as what insiders regard as the second most powerful man in the government.

Andrews was appointed minister of works, communications, public utilities, community development, women's affairs, civil aviation and co-operatives, replacing Dr Keith Mitchell, who was sacked by Blaize. Prior to the appointment, Andrews held the post of minister of state for fisheries under Education Minister George McGuire.

Political observers regard Andrews as a key figure in plans by Blaize's newly-formed National Party (NP) after the prime minister broke this week with the New National Party (NNP). Well-placed sources say he has already been given the responsibility of putting the NP on a sound footing, and may have moved ahead of Deputy Prime Minister Ben Jones, a faithful ally of the prime minister.

The 71-year-old Blaize is confined to a wheelchair and will not be expected to spearhead the hustle and bustle of establishing the party and electioneering.

"I realize it is a tough job," Andrews told CANA just before sitting down at the public utilities desk.

With elections due by March 1990 the latest, Andrews said that he was trying to give the government a good image for the bruising battle expected, "I am not there to look good. My concern is achievement and not personal aggrandizement so we will see how it goes," he says.

The new minister is the husband of Minister of State for Agriculture and Tourism Pauline Andrews. [passage omitted]

Andrews is confident that despite the problems, the Blaize group will emerge victorious.

"I know that we will succeed and the present government will be brought back into (power) mandated by the people for another five year term," he says. "There is no doubt in my mind about that. (The) last five years have been the best five years in the history of Grenada. Grenadian people are smart and intelligent and they wouldn't disrupt it," he added.

Andrews who says that good leadership is based on strength often boasts of being committed to the "democratic process."

"I think government must be responsible to the people and government must respond to the needs of the people and at the same time the people must respect those people they elected to govern them.

"I think leaders must also educate people and show them the direction in which they are going rather than lead them blindly," he said.

Andrews would like to be considered an advocate of "responsible government."

"I also believe that if you do evil, then evil will follow you," he said.

Mitchell 'To Topple' Government

FL2407221689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2126 GMT 24 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 24, CANA—Dismissed Grenada Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell has vowed to topple the government here and warned Prime Minister Herbert Blaize to expect a no confidence motion at the next sitting of parliament.

"We are not going to stop. We are going to do everything possible within the constitutional right of the people to bring the government down," he told supporters at a publilc meeting in his St George's Northwest constituency Sunday [23 July] night.

But there were doubts here Monday that the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), which holds the balance of power with six of 15 members of parliament—the same as Blaize's New National Party—would support Mitchell, who has so far got public backing from two government ministers.

Mitchell claimed that the opposition was already sending signals that it would abstain on the [words indistinct] Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique," he said.

Opposition leader George Brizan has rejected claims from Mitchell that the NDC was planning to abstain on any vote of no confidence moved against Blaize. Brizan said that the NDC is discussing the matter and when the time comes it would act in the best interest of Grenadians.

"We are not going to support the Blaize faction neither are we going to support the Mitchell faction," he remarked. "When we act we would certainly act in the best interest of the people, and in the best interest of our organisation, which is the best organisation to govern the country," he said.

Brizan and several others resigned from Blaize's government in 1987 to form the NDC after disagreements on labour and economic policies.

According to Mitchell, the prime minister can delay the next sitting of parliament for as long as he wants, but the House must be dissolved by December 28—the end of five years after the last elections—based on the requirements of the Constitution. "We want to force them to do it before, and yes we are going to do it," he said.

Under the rules of the House of Representatives, the speaker is the officer empowered to call sittings of parliament.

Blaize sacked Mitchell from his cabinet last Thursday [20 July], accusing him of breaching cabinet's collective responsibility principle by publicly criticising decisions of the government. The following day Blaize announced the formation of his own National Party (NP) and a break with Mitchell's New National Party (NNP), which brought them both to power in 1984.

Blaize had previously headed the NNP until he lost the leadership during the party's convention in January to Mitchell. Mitchell claimed to have the support of three other MP's—Health Minister Danny Williams and ministers of state, Grace Duncan and Alleyne Walker. Williams and Duncan have already distanced themselves publicly from Blaize's New Party, while Walker has made no public statement on the issue.

Mitchell said that Williams, Duncan, and Walker would be among the NNP candidates for the elections which cannot be held later than March.

"We don't want the rest because they don't want us. We go do without them because they don't care about people," he added.

If the trio pledges loyalty to Mitchell then Blaize would be left with four others on his side—External Affairs Minister Ben Jones, Education Minister George McGuire, and Ministers of State Pauline Andrews and Felix Alexander.

Mitchell felt that the planned motion for a vote of no confidence in Blaize's government would indicate whether the NDC is prepared to prop up the administration.

About two weeks ago, the INFORMER newspaper claimed that Blaize had been holding secret talks with the NDC on a possible merger for the elections. The NDC denied the claim.

The NNP had originally won a landslide 14-1 victory in the 1984 elections which took Grenada back on the road of constitutional government after five years of non-elected Marxist rule.

Blaize Not To Step Down

FL2407223289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2155 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 24, CANA—Faced with mounting calls from parliamentary oppontents to step aside, Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said on Monday [24 July] he will not be forced out of office.

"We're the government and we continue until such time as there's a new government," Blaize told Barbados-based Canaradio in a telephone interview. "They just want me to have elections immediately for they feel that's the only chance they have to win and we're not ready yet for that," Blaize said.

Dismissed Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell, has vowed to topple the government here and warned Prime Minister Blaize to expect a no confidence motion at the next sitting of parliament.

"We are not going to stop. We are going to do everything possible within the constitutional right of the people to bring the government down," he told supporters at a public meeting in his St George's Northwest constituency Sunday [23 July] night. But there were doubts here Monday that the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), which holds the balance of power with six of 15 members of parliament—the same as Blaize's newly formed National Party—would support Mitchell, who has so far got public backing from two government ministers.

Mitchell claimed that the opposition was already sending signals that it would abstain on the vote. "...If they abstain that is a vote of support, so on that day we're go(ing to) know who supports the man that is brutalizing the people of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Marftiniquee," he said.

Opposition leader George Brizan has rejected claims from Mitchell that the NDC was planning to abstain on any vote of no confidence moved against Blaize.

Brizan said that the NDC is discussing the matter and when the time comes it would act in the best interest of Grenadians.

"We are not going to support the Blaize faction neither are we going to support the Mitchell faction," he remarked.

"When we act we would certainly act in the best interest of the people, and in the best interest of our organisation, which is the best organisation to govern the country," he said.

Two Ministers Intend To Resign

FL2407234289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2313 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] St George's Grenada , July 24, CANA—Grenada's Health Minister Danny Williams and Minister of State for Women's Affairs Grace Duncan on Monday announced plans to resign from the administration of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, deepening a political crisis here.

Both Williams and Duncan outlined their positions at a news conference following an executive meeting of their New National Party (NNP), which formed the government since 1984 until last week, when Blaize announced formation of a new party. The two said they would hand in their resignations by Wednesday [26 July] at the latest to Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, after holding consultations with their constituents.

Blaize broke with the NNP to form his own National Party on Friday [21 July], one day after firing the NNP's political leader, Dr Keith Mitchell and its chairman Larry Joseph, from his cabinet. The sackings came six months after Mitchell was elected over Blaize as political leader of the NNP at the party's annual convention.

Williams and Duncan told reporters that they would be sticking with the NNP.

"I could not be in two parties at the same time," Williams said.

"I belong to the New National Party," Duncan chipped in.

The two also said that they would not be attending Tuesday's [25 July] weekly cabinet session.

The impending resignations of Duncan and Williams would leave Blaize with only five of the 15 elected parliamentarians on his side: External Affairs Minister Ben Jones, Education Minister George McGuire, and Ministers of State Alleyne Walker, Pauline Andrews, and Felix Alexander.

The parliamentary opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) of former interim government chief Nicholas Brathwaite also has six elected MP's [ministers of parliament] in parliament.

Mitchell, who also spoke at the news conference, said that the NNP executive with support from among three MP's, agreed to write Blaize urging him to resign. He spoke of Blaize having a moral obligation to step down, since he took up office on a ticket of the NNP. He said that if Blaize wanted to continue in office he should call fresh elections and seek a mandate from the electorate.

Mitchell stated that the NNP would be writing all elected MP's in the next few days asking them to dissociate themselves from the present government.

"We are going to be writing to every single member of the present government who were NNP members asking them to declare their positions immediately," he added.

Mitchell allso indicated that all senators would be asked to dissociate themselves from the Blaize administration.

Only two senators, John Munroe, and John Watts, who is the president of the senate, are known to be supportive of Mitchell's NNP.

Eric Pierre, the senator for trade union affairs, has already pledged to join Blaize's new party and to resign from the NNP.

With no date set for a sitting of parliament, constitutional lawyers here have said that Blaize could continue to govern with less than half of the elected MP's. One lawyer told CANA that Blaize could only be forced out of office if a majority of the elected MP's support a vote of no confidence in him during a sitting of parliament. The lawyer, who is close to government and asked not to be named, said that once a vote of no confidence is passed in parliament against the prime minister he would have to resign within 2-3 days as provided for in the Constitution. He said that if the prime minister fails to do so then the governor-general has a right to dissolve parliament.

The 14-1 majority with which the NNP came to office five years ago has been whittled down by a series of defections to the ranks of the opposition. The life of Blaize's government constitutionally ends on December 28, with elections constitutionally due by March at the latest.

Jamaica

New Airport Security Measures Implemented

FL2407142589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2358 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 22, CANA—Some 800 pounds of ganja and 91 pounds of cocaine have been found at Jamaica's two airports since the introduction in April of new security measures, says Minister of National Security K.D. Knight.

Speaking at a luncheon for the American Chamber of Commerce in Jamaica, Knight said that finds were made after searches by the authorities in buildings at the airports. He did not say whether there were any arrests as a result.

The new security measures which involve the use of soldiers and plain-clothes policemen were introduced in April following the discovery by United States Customs

in Miami of nearly 4,000 lbs of ganja aboard an Air Jamaica aircraft. The plane was subsequently seized by the American authorities and a fine imposed.

Despite criticisms that the presence of soldiers gave the impression that the country was under military rule, Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has stated that the soldiers will not be withdrawn until a special elite security corp, which is being trained, is ready to take over the duties now being performed by the soldiers.

Further on Security Measures

FL2407130189 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A new security scheme at Jamaica's main international airports has paid off with finds of more than half a ton of marijuana and cocaine since April. Minister of National Security Keith Knight says the new security measures involve the use of soldiers and plain-clothes policemen with sniffer dogs.

The finds were made in different buildings of Kingston's Manley Airport and Sangster Airport in Montego Bay. The security measures came into effect following the discovery, last April, of nearly 4,000 pounds of marijuana aboard an Air Jamaica plane.

Michael Manley Appoints Information Minister

FL2407165689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1635 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 24, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley has shed the information portfolio and handed it to former minister without portfolio in his office, Dr Paul Robertson. The shift came in a cabinet reshuffle which saw two other changes.

Errol Ennis, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce was named minister of state in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Sector and Manley Bowen was promoted to the position of minister of state in the Ministry of Industry.

El Salvador

Nicaraguan Consul Linked to FMLN-FDR

PA2407192789 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Jul 89 pp 4, 24

[Text] A woman detained by the Treasury Police on charges of terrorism has linked the Nicaraguan consul in Salvador with the terrorist FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front]. Police sources reported that Sonia Elizabeth Marroquin, a student at the National University, was arrested at her home in northern San Salvador on Thursday after her involvement with the FEUS [Salvadoran University Students Front] and the National Resistance (RN) was established.

Marroquin today admitted to police that she was involved with the groups and that she indoctrinated groups in various faculties.

She also admitted to having participated in violent activitiess as a member of goon squads for such groupa as the COMADRES [Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero's Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Missing and Murdered Political Prisoners of El Salvador], FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers], UNADES [National Union of Disaster Victims of El Salvador], and others.

Marroquin stressed that these and other similar groups emerged with the FMLN-FDR leadership's support, and their mission was to carry out goon squad functions.

She also said that there are movements involved in the FEUS in various university departments, and they indoctrinate youths.

Marroquin revealed that all aid received from the EEC and European and U.S. organizations that claim to be humanitarian in nature is used to support the goon squads.

Concerning the distribution of aid from Europe and the United States, Marroquin said that this aid arrives via Mexico or Nicaragua.

She added that there are weapons stored at the Humanities Departments. They are smuggled onto the premises in special vehicles—among them a red pickup truck with tinted windows—when the checkpoints are unguarded.

Marroquin explained that by making statements to the press she is, in fact, condemned to death. She has already blamed the communist groups at the university for anything that may happen to her or any member of her family.

Embassy Denies FMLN Link

PA2407233089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1947 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Embassy in El Salvador today denied that its personnel had ever participated in activities to aid the Salvadoran guerrillas, as was reported by a university student who was detained by the Salvadoran police.

The Nicaraguan Embassy issued a communique expressing its concern over statements allegedly made by Zoila [as received] Marroquin because "they constitute an attempt to erode relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua and to impede the peace efforts, just when the Central American presidential summit is being prepared."

Marroquin claimed that a Nicaraguan consul in El Salvador, whom she identified only by his last name, Leal, "actively participates in channeling economic aid from Europe and the United States to the guerrillas" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The student accused the diplomat of giving scholarships to Salvadoran university students to receive political indoctrination and military training in Nicaragua.

The Sandinist diplomatic mission gave assurances that its members "have followed the rules and regulations governing diplomatic and consular activities," and stressed that "Marroquin's statements are completely false."

The university student, who said she was a FARN [Armed Forces of National Resistance] member, was arrested in her home by Treasury Police agents on 20 July. FARN is one of the five FMLN member organizations.

The Sandinist embassy described the accusations as "propaganda to hinder the peace efforts, just when the Central American presidential summit is being prepared."

Presidents Vinicio Cerezo (Guatemala), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), Oscar Arias (Costa Rica), Jose Azcona Hoyo (Honduras), and Alfredo Cristiani (El Salvador) will hold a meeting to review the peace agreements in the Honduran port city of Tela on 5, 6, and 7 August.

Effective Dates for Economic Measures Reported

PA2507043889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The financial system changes announced by the Salvadoran Government will become effective on 25 July, Mortgage Bank President Arturo Mason reported this morning. Mason also said the measures on loans and interest rates announced by President Alfredo Cristiani

last week will be effective 1 August. In addition, Mason said that interest on loans will be increased but that there will be no interest increase on farmers' loans during the first phase of the new measures so that harvests will not be affected. The manager also said the interest rate paid on bank deposits will be increased simultaneously.

[Begin recording] [Mason] No interest rate increase will be applied on loans already granted or to be granted to farmers in order to avoid affecting farmers.

[Reporter] Who will be affected and how?

[Mason] Of course, we will have to increase the interest charged on loans at the same time we increase the interest paid on bank deposits. Basically, the interest rate on loans with a maturity of less than a year will be increased from 18 to 21 percent, while the interest rate will rise to 22 percent for those loans with a maturity of more than a year. [end recording]

Mason was questioned on this matter after he opened a series of lectures by agricultural specialist Dr (Jerry Stowler) on enhancing the productivity of the Salvadoran soil. The lectures were for agricultural technicians and producers to teach them how best to use the nutrients in the country's soil and increase agricultural yield, particularly that of coffee.

Reserve Bank Chief Calls for Austerity Measures

PA2407154689 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Jul 89 pp 5, 15

[Text] The Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador [BCR] has stated in a communique that the government and private sector must adopt austerity measures to handle the country's current economic situation.

It stated that that is the sole way to ensure that economic and social development are more dependent on the country's internal resources.

BCR President Jose Roberto Orellana Milla made those remarks to reinforce the content of his recent report to the Legislative Assembly.

An economic stalemate, inflationary pressures that make price controls ineffective and hamper production, and the loss of international reserves describe the characteristics of the country's economic situation from June 1988 to May 1989.

The BCR president reported that over the past 12 months the economic situation of the country has greatly deteriorated, as demonstrated by the reduction of per capita income to 1964 levels, a government deficit of more than 1.3 billion colons for 1989, and barely $179 million in international reserves.

The deterioration is not only the result of the internal conflict, but of the failure to adopt the necessary measures at the right time to stop the government from spending more than it collects.

The government can fulfill its obligations only because of the foreign aid the country receives, a situation that cannot go on indefinitely.

Orellana stated that the country's external sector experienced a tremendous deterioration over the past 10 years. Exports have dropped by 50 percent; in 1979 they totalled $1.1 billion, while in 1989 they are expected to reach $550 million.

He said the country has lost over $120 million in foreign exchange and accumulated over $160 million in delayed payments of its foreign debt.

Moreover, the BCR's loans to the public sector total 4 billion colons, but aproximately 40 percent of it is in arrears. This happens because the government is spending more than it collects, reflecting the prevailing disarray in handling public funds.

All these factors compound the negative outlook financial institutions present as a result of bad political management and centralization. The liquidity problems these institutions face are caused by unpaid loans, excessive loans granted by the banks early in the year, and interest rates on savings, which do not compensate for the inflation levels.

Orellana concluded by saying that overcoming the crisis will require the participation and sacrifice of everyone, but he cautioned against expecting miraculous results because it is impossible to recover in days what took years to destroy.

General Discusses Measures To Stop Violence

PA2107125689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] Air Force Commanding General Juan Rafael Bustillo today rebuffed as speculation, reports on his approaching retirement from his post. He also said other circumstances will determine whether or not he leaves, but did not go into detail. He also called reports on differences between him and Defense Minister General Humerto Larios speculation.

[Beging recording] [Bustillo] I have no differences with him. This would be detrimental to our Armed Forces. My relations with him have always been good and still are. I have no differences with the minister.

[Reporter] Do you feel the government should adopt more drastic measures to stop the violence?

[Bustillo] I do not think we should be talking of drastic measures or exerting pressure with unnecessary steps. We have the laws, and failing to enforce them is a problem because that entails a failure to use the laws. I think the existing laws are enough to carry out justice in our country. [end recording]

Gen Bustillo added that the effort by President Cristiani to establish a commission to hold talks with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is good.

[Begin recording] [Bustillo] I think talking about a dialogue is good. I do not think we can talk of negotiations yet, since the sides must first hold talks. I think sitting down for talks is a good opportunity. Afterward, we will see if there is a need to hold negotiations.

[Reporter] How do you view the guerrillas' refusal to accept this commission?

[Bustillo] Besides being the perpetrators of violent actions in our country, they are politicians. They have to reject it as part of their tactical strategy. [end recording]

Bustillo also strongly condemned recent murders of political figures and other acts of violence, which he blamed on the guerrillas and other front organizations that, according to him, follow FMLN guidelines. He added that President Cristiani has not been in office long enough to talk about results. In conclusion, he said that he does not see the need to ask for more aviation equipment for the war. The current equipment will continue to be used as long as necessary.

Presidential Palace Guard Killed 20 Jul
PA2207044589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0411 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] A Presidential Palace security guard was killed by a shot in the forehead last night [20 July], judicial officials reported today. According to the report, Jose Alfonso Tovar, 26, was shot by unidentified assailants near East 25th Street and Spain Avenue. According to the coroner's report, the victim died from the impact of a .45-caliber bullet wound in his forehead. Judicial officials reported that the identity of the assailants is unknown, although robbery has been ruled out as a motive.

Coprefa Condemns University Campus Bombing
PA2207225289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1900 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, bulletin issued in San Salvador on 22 July—read by reporter Porfirio Nelson Orantes]

[Text] The Salvadoran National Police reported this morning that unidentified men set off bombs at the Central American Jose Simeon Canas University, UCA, located in southwestern San Salvador.

According to the report, the attack took place at 0200. One administrative office, one bus, and one electrical transformer were damaged as a result of the explosion of at least four bombs that went off inside the UCA campus.

The Armed Forces have always condemned this kind of attack, which is usually carried out by certain groups that oppose peace. The Armed Forces believe that such attacks are not the way to solve the country's social and political problems.

In addition, these violent actions only confuse the public, because unscrupulous people always blame the Army for any such action, without first conducting an in-depth investigation of the origin of the attacks.

The Armed Forces have always reiterated their willingness to ensure respect for human rights, public and private property, and the life and safety of the Salvadoran people. Therefore, from this very moment, the Armed Forces reject any accusation implicating them in the attack against UCA, which took place early this morning.

Culture, Communications Ministry Dissolved
PA2307134089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes on statements by Mauricio Sandoval, culture and communications minister, and Roberto Edmundo Viera, former culture and communications minister; on 21 July—places not given]

[Text] [Funes] The culture and communications minister did not hesitate to describe the ministry as a mere instrument of official propaganda for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] over the last 5 years. He held officers of the previous administration responsible for having sought political recognition by creating this ministry, without benefiting the country's communications system, much less the national culture.

[Begin Sandoval recording] The Culture and Communications Ministry has served only as an expense, covering the salaries of ministers and deputy ministers, transportation, security, administration, and and so on. These expenses could have been saved if it had not been for certain politicians who sought to achieve recognition by handling such a complex organization. A great administration and planning investment has been required just to control it. [end recording]

[Funes] Sandoval mentioned that the ministry had an unbalanced scale of salaries. He said that when he took office he came across a great number of overpaid employees. He also reported that technical resources were being used for production and broadcasting to

benefit private businesses, but gave no details. Sandoval said that national radio and television production was not expanded, despite this being one of the ministry's goals when it was created.

[Begin Sandoval recording] There is a lack of national production in radio and television—only 24 percent is locally produced. Programs from abroad fill 71 percent of broadcast time, which is an indication of the underutilization of the installed capacity and contrasts with the number of radio and television employees. The two state-run broadcasting facilities have 276 employees. [end recording]

[Funes] Based on this, the new official announced the closing of this ministry. Minutes after the announcement, Roberto Viera, former culture and comunications minister, said that the government's decision to close the Culture and Communciations Ministry is an example of the little interest the new adminstration has in communications, especially in freedom of speech and information as ensured by the PDC government.

[Begin Viera recording] We now see these programs threatened. We have seen how political debate programs are disappearing for one reason or another and how the content of political discussions is being changed to other topics that may be of interest, but in fact follow the government's policy of not debating the hottest topics. [end recording]

[Funes] Viera also denied that government publicity expenses incurred by this ministry have consumed public funds. According to his own statistics, last year the Culture and Communications Ministry budget was reduced by nearly 400,000 colons compared to the previous year. Propaganda expenses represented about one percent of the total.

Auxiliary Bishop Condemns Continuing Violence

PA2407142089 San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Sunday homily by San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez at the San Salvador Metropolitan Cathedral—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This week was very special, because the Salvadoran bishops spent 3 full days reviewing—in the light of God—the life of our church and homeland.

The CEDES [Salvadoran Episcopal Conference] assembly discussed various important issues. Regarding national issues, what most interests the bishops is the dialogue of the Salvadoran bishops with the Salvadoran president and vice president, with the Armed Forces High Command, and with various opposition political leaders. All the meetings took place within a climate of cordiality and frankness. All the parties involved expressed their desire to contribute toward ending the war in El Salvador and bringing reconciliation to the Salvadoran family.

The CEDES assembly discussed other important issues, which were not given much publicity, such as the problem of the displaced people. The displaced people are those Salvadoran brothers and sisters who have fled from their places of origin because of the prevailing violence. They have survived, thanks to the hospitality of relatives and friends, who share their equally precarious economic situation with them.

It is said that the displaced people are like drops of water lost in this beloved homeland. There are at least 500,000 displaced people in El Salvador, which is 10 percent of the entire Salvadoran population—500,000 unknown people. Unlike the few thousand Salvadorans who live in resettlement communities whose plight has fortunately been publicized around the world, almost no one remembers these people, the immense majority of the displaced. That situation must change.

The church wants to become even closer to the displaced people, not only to temporarily alleviate their hunger, but also to help them get back on their feet and rebuild their destroyed lives. As the ancient Chinese saying goes: If you give a man a fish he can eat for a day, but if you teach him to fish he can eat for the rest of his life.

I listened to President Cristiani's speech on 20 July. I listened to the speech with concern about the displaced people in my heart. I did not feel very optimistic after listening to the president's economic measures. Toward the end of his speech, President Cristiani said a word that should be the key word that leads to a path we must all follow to obtain a true solution to the country's problems. He said we must express solidarity with the needy. We add that we must express solidarity with the dramatic challenge that underdevelopment represents.

According to Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II, underdevelopment is not merely a social reality, but a moral reality that calls on our consciences. Underdevelopment is in fact what Pope Paul VI described as our duty to express solidarity with the underdeveloped world.

John Paul II's statements on underdevelopment are worthy of comment. In Paragraph 9 of his encyclical letter entitled "Social Concerns," Pope John Paul II says: True development cannot consist in a mere accumulation of wealth or in having the largest availability of goods and services if the goods and wealth are attained at the expense of the underdevelopment of many other people and in disregard of human beings' social, cultural, and spiritual needs.

We must begin by being aware of that to then make Pope Paul VI's famous statement a reality. In his encyclical letter entitled "Populorum Progressium," issued almost 21 years ago, Pope Paul VI said: Development is the new word for peace.

Unfortunately, we are experiencing an increasing moral underdevelopment in El Salvador as the various, very worrisome events that took place this week show. First, we have the confusing incidents that took place at the National University, in which fortunately no one was killed; then, the attack on Gabriel Payes, which is absolutely abominable; and finally, the equally abominable destruction of the Central American Jose Simeon Canas University printing house. We must get out of that suicidal tunnel and return to civilized talks such as the ones we held with the president, the vice president, the Armed Forces High Command, and various political leaders.

A report issued by the Armed Forces early this week shook us. The report described a terrifying action attributed to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. We are talking about the murder of the mayor of Chinamequita, La Paz Department. He was injected with insecticide, which is a cruel way to murder someone.

The detailed investigations conducted by the Legal Assistance Office do not fully agree with the version that was released. According to our information, Carmen Martinez Gordiano, corregidor of the Chinamequita Municipality, had been the acting Chinamequita mayor for only 4 days. No one witnessed the cruel murder, but his relatives attributed it to residents of the area, who are enemies of Martinez's family.

I wonder, brothers, how far contempt for human life will go in our country? It is clear to me that we—as Abraham—desperately need God's visit. It is also clear, my friends, that the reporters—who I congratulate in advance, because I will not be here next Sunday—have a great task to fulfill here. They must remind us that man's life must be respected and that man's life is above any ideology. Your task is not easy, but you know you can count on the solidarity of the Church, which is determined to defend human dignity. [passage omitted]

Criticizes Economic Measures

PA2507005689 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Catholic Church objects to the economic measures announced by the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government because they will aggravate poverty. Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez today said the economic reforms that President Alfredo Cristiani has announced have not received the support of the majority of the people. Rosa Chavez, who spoke after his homily, said Cristiani has announced measures that increase the expenses of the dispossessed and that this model will hardly meet the people's needs.

[Rosa Chavez] "These measures not only fail to aid the poor people but end up working against them. In other words, if a sound foundation is not established, the price increases set forth in these measures will be paid by those who are supposedly benefited, the poor. This is the grave problem that the church perceives in Cristiani's social posture as apparently presented in his Thursday speech. We will have to wait a while. I feel, however, that it will be very difficult for this plan to truly benefit those who suffer the most."

President Cristiani announced a number of economic measures, including lifting some price controls, a move some political analysts have said could cause a social upheaval. Referring to last week's events, Rosa Chavez said that they seem to usher in a return to 1980. He also said the reporters' work will become more difficult in the coming months. Truth must be disseminated and respected, he said.

[Rosa Chavez] "The reporters' work will be more difficult in the next few months. One of the most common formulas is the one just presented. When a person does not truly believe in truth, he will try to destroy it, (?although) he pretends to be a defender of truth. In the specific case of the mayor who was poisoned with insecticide, this incident deserved a more in-depth inquiry [words indistinct] information relayed to the Armed Forces. This is a sad thing because this serious case should have been handled objectively.

"Being criticized is also part of a reporter's work. However, some are not used to this. They are only used to being praised. This way a person detaches himself from reality and will offer solutions that do not correspond to reality."

Rosa Chavez criticized the military surrounding the University of San Salvador and said he regretted that the country is running out of good sense. The cleric condemned the dynamite attack on the Central American University's printing shop early yesterday. He said: I am worried. The situation is serious.

[Rosa Chavez] "This week's events seem to indicate we are returning to the 1980's. We are witnessing a dialogue of bombs [words indistinct], an irrational dialogue and, therefore, an antidialogue. This is why we should try to avoid entering this tunnel. As we said in the homily, we should return to a civilized dialogue."

According to the prelate, the situation does not appear to be good at all. He stressed that ideas are fought with other ideas and not with bombs.

Venceremos Reports on Recent Military Actions

Airplane 'Incident'

PA2107162689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Honduran and Salvadoran airplanes were involved in an incident over Morazan Department recently. At noon on 19 July, Salvadoran helicopters flew over Honduran territory to enter northern Morazan Department. Afterwards, two Honduran Air Force F-5 airplanes flew over Perquin. They forced the withdrawal of the helicopters, which were providing air support for troops fighting in the area. Shortly after the Honduran planes arrived, two A-37 airplanes were sent up by [Salvadoran Air Force Commander] General Bustillo. They flew over the region, forcing the Honduran planes to withdraw.

There are two possible reasons for this incident, which could have ended up with a dogfight between Salvadoran and Honduran planes. It might have been an incident caused by the lack of cooperation between the two armies regarding the U.S.-ordered use of Honduran territory. This order has led to the use of the Honduran territory by three armies: those of the United States, the Somozists, and the Salvadorans. A second possibility is that the incident was the Honduran Army's reaction to a number of actions that have brought shame to that country's sovereignty and independence. These include the violation of its territory by the Salvadoran Army, which the United States has ordered Honduras to permit. Whatever the reason, we again appeal to the Honduran Government and Armed Forces not to get involved in this conflict—in which they have nothing to gain and much to lose—just to defend the interests of the oligarchy and the Salvadoran military, which in the 1969 war brought terror and mourning to Honduran territory.

Casualties From Ambushes

PA2207031789

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 21 July broadcasts approximately 12 minutes of reports on FMLN actions. The station begins by greeting the "FMLN fighters who inflicted more than 40 casualties on the puppet army's troops in four ambushes."

The first report indicates that at 0715 on 20 July, guerrilla units set off three mines to ambush a military truck on the Coastal Highway in Tecoluca jurisdiction. It adds that "the enemy sustained approximately nine casualties and the truck was damaged."

In "a last minute report," the station reports that "in the past few hours, our antiaircraft units damaged an Air Force helicopter in San Diego Canton, San Antonio del Monte Jurisdiction." According to the station, there was heavy fighting with the Pipil Battalion on 20 July in the Metapan area, Santa Ana Department. It states that government troops sustained three casualties in Plan Galan village and one casualty near Finca El Pinar. The station adds that the guerrillas ambushed a military truck transporting troops at 1330, "inflicting seven casualties on the enemy." One more casualty was inflicted "when the enemy was transporting the wounded."

The station reports that guerrillas inflicted one casualty on troops on Jocote Hill, Las Vueltas Jurisdiction at 2000 on 18 July, and that they inflicted two casualties on the Bracamonte Battalion in Llano Grande, Concepcion Quezaltepeque jurisdiction, at 1600 on 19 July.

According to the station, six towers of the Cerron Grande-Nejapa power line were blown up in Tenango, Suchitoto Jurisdiction, at 2000 on 19 July. The station states that on 19 July, "in tribute to the anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution, a militia and guerrilla unit ambushed a truck of the Artillery Brigade traveling from Quezaltepeque to San Juan Opico in Libertad Department, inflicting five casualties on the enemy and damaging the truck." In another ambush on 19 July, "paracentral front units ambushed a convoy of 12 trucks in the San Rafael Cedros road, on the turnoff to Las Crucitas," inflicting an estimated 20 casualties.

FMLN Actions 20-21 Jul

PA2307033989

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 July broadcasts approximately 7 minutes of reports on Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, actions.

Regarding actions by "FMLN urban groups," the station reports that a unit sabotaged a Pepsi-Cola truck, while another sabotaged a beer company truck in San Salvador on the morning of 20 July. The station states that continuing "the ambushes against Army deployments," FMLN units ambushed a convoy of five trucks and one armored personnel carrier between Ilobasco and Sensuntepeque at 0900 on 20 July. It adds that three mines were set off, inflicting an estimated 20 casualties.

According to the station, "urban units staged a sabotage action" against the Cuscatlan Bank located on Cuscatlan Avenue and Sixth Street at 0545 on 21 July. The station reports that it has received information from Nueva Granada, Usulutan Department, about the "execution of henchman Roberto Maravilla" who was "responsible for many crimes, such as being an Army informer."

In a report from Chalatenango Department, the station reports that a military patrol was attacked at 1100 on 21 July in Amatillo, Las Vueltas jurisdiction, inflicting one casualty.

Paratroopers Wounded

PA2307231289

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 23 July broadcasts approximately 10 minutes of reports on recent fighting between Salvadoran Army forces and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas.

The station begins by announcing that "over the last 5 days, we have carried out 16 ambushes against military caravans and have inflicted 100 casualties. This has caused a crisis for the Army High Command because officers and troops are beginning to refuse to serve in supply and relief missions."

The announcer says that "at 0615 on 21 July, an ambush took place on the road that leads from Nejapa to Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department. A vehicle traveling in this area that was carrying troops was ambushed near the slaughterhouse, and three of the enemy were seriously wounded as a result."

The radio says that "Army paratroopers landed in a mine field in the San Felipe Canton, Villa Victoria jurisdiction, Cabanas Department, at 0200 on 22 July, and one soldier was wounded as a result. At 0910, we attacked this same paratrooper unit and seriously wounded two more soldiers. A helicopter evacuated the three wounded paratroopers."

The announcer continues with a report received from Morazan Department, saying that "at 1000 on 22 July, guerrillas clashed with Military Detachment No. 3 commando units in Cerro Colorado, near Rio Torola, Joateca jurisdiction. At 1400 our forces launched an attack against this same enemy unit, but we never learned the number of casualties that resulted from the encounter. No casualties have been reported among our men since we began operating in the Joateca area."

The station ends the military report segment by "saluting guerrilla and clandestine militia units, which at 0400 on 22 July, handed out propaganda in the villages of Poloros, Nueva Esparta, and Anamoros in La Union Department."

Battle Roundup

PA2407150789

[Editorial report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 24 July broadcasts a 10-minute weekly military report that includes reports on ambushes, attacks, and sabotage operations carried out by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front units [FMLN] between 17 and 23 July.

The report begins by saying that the week in review was "characterized by a large number of ambushes conducted along roads throughout the country." The report states that the FMLN conducted 18 ambushes which resulted in approximately 150 casualties.

The report goes on to say that during the week of 17-23 July, the FMLN inflicted approximately 230 casualties in various ambushes and attacks conducted in "areas under our control." The 230 casualties "include four lieutenants, a sergeant, a corporal, and two radio operators. As for war equipment, this week we seized 8 rifles, 6 backpacks, and 2,300 cartridges from the Army."

The report adds that during the ambushes carried out this week, the FMLN units destroyed four vehicles, partially destroyed seven other vehicles, and partially destroyed one armored vehicle. The report states that as for "antiaircraft combat," the FMLN damaged one helicopter in Morazan Department this week.

The report says that FMLN urban commandos sabotaged a branch of the Cuscatlan Bank, three telephone booths, various electrical towers in San Salvador, nine soda trucks, one National Administration for Telecommunications office, and one mayor's office. The report concludes by saying that "this week, we sabotaged approximately 32 poles that held primary and secondary power lines."

Guatemala

Bomb Explodes at Home of Texaco Official

PA2107182189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1652 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Jul (REUTER)—The Guatemalan police today reported that unidentified persons last night set off a bomb at the home of a high-ranking executive of the U.S. Texaco oil company, causing damage but no victims.

The police added the home of Orson Lou Franco, the 44-year-old Texaco assistant sales manager, was attacked at 2145 (0345 GMT). The house is in El Mirador neighborhood in the southeastern part of the city.

The police have already defused two bombs this week. Presidential spokeswoman Claudia Arenas said she believes the extreme right is responsible for this new wave of violence. "We do not feel urban guerrillas are active again," Arenas said.

On Wednesday night, while Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo addressed the nation, unidentified persons destroyed the Channel 7 television broadcasting tower, killing the night watchman.

Government Workers' Groups Demand Wage Hikes
PA2107125989 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] A total of 16 government workers organizations are currently on strike in Guatemala, and it is expected that other organizations will join the strikers' attempts to gain wage hikes. This information was given to us by Hugo Francisco Hernandez, general secretary of the Anthropology and History Institute's workers union and member of the Public Employees Emergency Coordinator [Coordinadora de Emergencia de Trabajadores del Estado].

He reported that workers from the following unions are presently on strike: the Education Ministry (teachers); the Communications, Transport, and Public Works Ministry; the Postal and Telegraph Office; the Anthropology and History Institute; the Culture and Sports Ministry; the National Civil Service Office; the Guatemalan Cultural Center; and the Finance Ministry.

Hernandez said that workers from the National Agrarian Transformation Institute, the port of Quetzal, the Statistics Department, the Immigration Department, the port of Santo Tomas de Castilla, and the Road Repair Department are also on strike. He added that, according to its union leaders, Public Health and Social Welfare Ministry employees will join the strike next week.

Honduras

Government Drafting Plan on Contra Demobilization
PA2407235089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2215 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jul (DPA)—President Jose Azcona Hoyo said today that his government is preparing a plan for the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras in Honduran territory. He added that once the Honduran National Security Council approves the plan, he will present it to his four Central American counterparts.

Azcona Hoyo said that the plan to demobilize the approximately 12,000 contra combatants—who are in camps in eastern El Paraiso Department on the border with Nicaragua—only needs finishing touches from the Security Council, over which he presides, and then he will send Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras to the other Central American capitals to present the plan to them.

The president said that his interest in the Nicaraguan armed opposition's mobilization is due to the fact that "a solution to this problem is in the best interest" of Honduras. He noted that the other countries, including Nicaragua, "are not interested in the issue."

Azcona Hoyo, who gave statements to the press at the Government House today, said that the demobilization plan his government is drafting would be approved at the fifth Central American presidents summit to be held on 5-7 August in Tela, a tourist resort on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, 329 km north of Tegugicalpa.

Azcona Hoyo defended the results of the previous four presidential summits, which have received veiled criticism from Honduran military chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez. Referring to the success of the summits, Azcona Hoyo recalled that these summits had led to Nicaragua's decision to hold elections ahead of schedule and to call for a cease-fire between the Sandinists and the contras.

Asked if Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega would win the February elections, Azcona Hoyo refrained from making predictions, although he commented that in free elections, people do not favor governments which restrict their freedom.

Congress President Views IMF, Peace Talks
PA2107145489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Interview with National Congress President Carlos Montoya by unidentified reporters on 19 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] If we (?do not revise) the budget and do not solve the difficulties, does that mean there will be no negotiation with the IMF [words indistinct]?

[Montoya] No. The negotiation with the international banks depends on a structural economic adjustment. This includes a reduction in public spending, and we have some leeway on that. It does not mean stopping the construction of public works or cutting the education or health budget, which I do not think can be reduced.

I believe the other solution would be structural economic adjustments. I think we should make improvements in some areas to collect more funds. Nevertheless, Honduras is a country of 4.5 million inhabitants who demand services and public works, and we cannot lag behind.

[Reporter] It is said that the government probably will not reach an agreement with international financial institutions and that such an agreement is even more difficult because the liberal government is on its way out.

[Montoya] We are working hard. The work of the government is to get the largest possible disbursements at any time. So, we cannot close this door. We have to keep it open and engage in dialogue. However...

[Reporter, interrupting] What is the country's position?

[Montoya] The whole Third World is in the same predicament. I just returned from Argentina, and I wish you could see what is happening there. A person has to work three shifts or have two jobs to be able to live relatively well. Argentina owes $53 billion and has to save by cutting public spending. Consequently, it had to increase utility rates, and so the standard of living has fallen. The same applies to Mexico and Venezuela. We are the ones who are better off in Central America, I can assure you. But we are...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Question indistinct]

[Montoya] We are going to forge ahead, because we did not pay attention to agricultural production before. We were rewarding the importer rather than the exporter. So we are going to make sure the peasants and the farmers produce and [words indistinct]. The Honduran debt is one of the lowest in the Third World. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Montoya] I think great progress has been made in the peace process. No one in Nicaragua is talking about the contra problem with the same acrimony as before. We have reduced the level of rhetoric quite a bit. The February elections in Nicaragua will be a big, fast leap toward peace in the region. [Words indistinct] positive steps toward peace. You are witness to that—there is less talk of war now than 1 or 2 years ago.

[Reporter] Mr Montoya, do you think it is still feasible to negotiate with the international financial organizations this year? In the view of some (?analysts), this is no longer possible. Do you think it is?

[Montoya] We will continue working. We will continue to make every possible effort, because one cannot exist in the Western world without an agreement with the IMF. It is not possible, because otherwise not even Honduran planes will be able to fly to the United States or any other country. One cannot live in the Western world without an agreement with the IMF. So, that agreement is vital and [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

FRG Suspends Aid Over Unpaid $4-Million Debt

PA2507044089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2329 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jul (AFP)—FRG Ambassador to Honduras Walter Eickhoff reported that the FRG Government has suspended financial aid and cooperation funds for Honduras because of Honduras' $4-million outstanding debt with the FRG.

Ambassador Eickhoff said that $15 million earmarked for financial aid and $6 million for technical cooperation approved in 1987 will be frozen until Honduras brings its payments up to date.

However, the diplomat acknowledged that "while the Honduran Government wants to pay off its debt, it lacks sufficient foreign exchange."

The FRG Government's decision is similar to those adopted by international financial organizations such as the World Bank, which declared Honduras ineligible for new loans because of an outstanding $57-million debt Honduras has with that organization.

The most recent attempt by Honduras to reach an agreement with the World Bank failed in Washington last week, when Minister Carlos Falck and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias failed to reach a preliminary agreement with World Bank executives, who demanded a total revision of the Honduran economy.

In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) is withholding the $75 million it approved to help pay for Honduras' balance of payments until that country signs a letter of intent with the World Bank.

President Jose Azcona's administration this week will present an economic program, demanded by the AID as one of the requirements for releasing funds to Honduras.

The Central Bank reported today that to date the Honduran Government has only had recourse to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to get help in solving its financial problems. Honduras paid off a $21-million debt it had with that organization.

The Central Bank communique added that payment to the IDB will allow Honduras to receive $24 million from that financial organization next month.

Honduras was able to pay off its debt with the IDB through a stopgap loan granted by the Venezuelan Government last week.

Emergence of New Guerrilla Group Reported

PA2407154889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0133 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 23 Jul (EFE)—With the emergence this past Thursday of the 9 May People's Liberation Forces (FPL-9 May) [Fuerzas Populares de Liberacion 9 de Mayo], there are now nine guerrilla organizations active in Honduras. Seven are leftist, and the other two are rightist.

The FPL-9 May emerged spectacularly with the synchronized explosion of six bombs that scattered propaganda pamphlets in the capital, in San Pedro Sula, and in La Ceiba.

In Tegucigalpa, the targets were Central Plaza, where a person was injured by glass and concrete fragments; a parking lot on the university campus; and the yard of the School of Teachers.

In San Pedro Sula, the propaganda devices exploded at Northern Regional University Center, and in a room of the Superior School. In La Ceiba, the target was a yard at the Atlantic coast's Regional University Center.

The propaganda disseminated by the new group, allegedly leftist, announces that the group has "emerged as a result of a serious division in the Honduran People's Movement created in 1985, a division that became intolerable for some members of the movement."

However, the top leaders of the movement quickly spoke up to deny the alleged "division" and accused "the Honduran Armed Forces" of being responsible for the explosions and of wanting to create "confusion" among the people. [passage omitted

CPFM Denies Responsibility

PA2407221689 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Jul 89

["Statement" issued by the Francisco Morazan Patriotic Committee, CPFM, and read via telephone by CPFM spokesman Matias Funez; no date or place given—recorded]

[Text] On 20 July—the date on which Indian Chief Lempira, first defender of our sovereignty, is honored—a group calling itself the 9 May People's Liberation Forces detonated six propaganda bombs in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and La Ceiba, one of which seriously wounded student Carlos Ivan Herrera of the Teachers' Higher School.

Since early in the morning of 20 July, there have been many radio ads run by the so-called Democratic Youth, which is another name used by the people's enemies to disguise their repressive actions, though they clearly intend to undermine the activities planned by grass roots organizations to honor heroic Lempira.

In addition, newspapers on 20 July carried a paid ad by the Conjunto Bravo Task Force hailing our courageous Indian chief, which was an insult to our national dignity since it came from those who today occupy the country militarily and trample on Honduras' sovereignty every day.

All these actions—bomb attacks, radio ads, and the press communique—have the same objectives: to cause confusion among the people; to demoralize and intimidate them in their sacred struggle for national independence.

The communique by the so-called 9 May People's Liberation Forces says that the recent deaths of Edgardo Herrera and Salomon Vallecillos resulted from quarrels among the country's progressive forces and paves the way for the justification of future political assassinations. The communique was coarsely worded, which indicates that it was of police origin. The communique directly mentions our General Coordinator Mario Diaz, Organization Secretary Martin Pineda, and three member organizations of the Francisco Morazan Patriotic Committee: the Revolutionary University Force, the Progressive Student Movement, and the 30 April Progressive Student Front of the Teachers' Higher School.

In addition to these actions, Matias Funez, communications secretary of the Francisco Morazan Patriotic Committee, recently received death threats over the telephone.

The Francisco Morazan Patriotic Committee blames the state security corps for any repressive action against any of its members or any activist of the Honduran grass roots organizations.

We make a fraternal call to all the grassroots organizations in the country, to patriotic Honduran men and women, to remain united and stop with a firm hand the repressive actions aimed at discouraging those of us who are struggling for a sovereign and independent homeland without foreign troops violating our sacred territory. Morazan is not only a man's name, Morazan represents all our people!

[Signed] Francisco Morazan Patriotic Committee

Nicaragua

Ortega Criticizes 'False Information' Campaign

PA2507025889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jul 89 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report: "Daniel Reports Dirty Campaign To Encourage Speculation; There Is No Devaluation in July"]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega yesterday [23 July] described as "false information to provoke speculation" the biased campaign launched by the Yankee government and published by the CIA newspaper [Managua LA PRENSA], which claims that a new monetary devaluation, similar to the one in June, is being planned.

Daniel Ortega expressed his emphatic denial before more than 500 international solidarity delegates during yesterday's "Face the People" meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center. Commanders Tomas Borge and Henry Ruiz [ministers of interior and foreign cooperation, respectively] also attended the meeting.

The president said: "We are going to show that when August arrives, there will have been no devaluation" at the levels that are being reported through this "terrorist" policy, which is intended to promote speculation among merchants.

He charged that Nicaragua's enemies "want to destroy the economic program that the government has established to halt inflation, which, in July, he said, "is below 10 percent."

Ortega said that the United States must do three basic things to achieve peace in the region: "The U.S. Government must respect the Central American presidents' determination to get the contras out of Honduras; the trade embargo against Nicaragua must end; and the United States must let us hold our elections, and not come meddle where it has not been invited." The hall broke out in applause in support for these demands.

Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega answered various questions from representatives of 40 countries participating in the Third Meeting of Solidarity at the Olof Palme Convention Center yesterday. The participants confirmed their moral, political, and material support for the Sandinist revolution and the Nicaraguan electoral process.

In his remarks, the Sandinist leader revealed that in talks with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, he had expressed to the cardinal his concern over the campaign of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] factions, LA PRENSA, and some producers with regard to the economic situation in the country.

"They should not attack the economic program, which is very sensitive," Ortega warned. At the same time, he said, "they have not understood the message, and it seems that this lack of understanding encourages them to spread dangerous information in the newspaper paid for by the CIA and claiming that a devaluation is about to take place."

Ortega mentioned his 19 July appeal for more moderate statements in the media. However, he said, it appears that "they interpret any such gesture as weakness. That is the problem. They have suicidal tendencies, because they do not have nor will they ever have the people's support."

Demand to the United States

The president said that "for the first time, we have been able to bring the truth of the revolution to the United States, without needing U.S. television networks. This time we did it through the network of solidarity." He was referring to a satellite linkup between him and North Americans who support the revolution on 22 July.

Daniel Ortega added that the United States places obstacles in the way of visits by the revolution's leaders "because it is afraid of the truth. Since we cannot be there, you represent us," he told the solidarity meeting's delegates.

Ortega demanded respect for the Central American presidents' "decision to remove the contras from Honduran territory, from where the former guardsmen launch attacks to kill the Nicaraguan civilian population." The Central American presidents will meet in Honduras on 5-6 August.

The trade embargo and the blockade policy must end because it has been been clearly shown that they not only harm the population that identifies with the Sandinist Front but also productive sectors affiliated with political parties.

He described the U.S. blockade as "a violation of the human rights of all the Nicaraguan people," who have been victims of the U.S. Government over the past 8 years of war.

Regarding the February 1990 elections, the president said the United States "should let us hold them and not come meddle where it has not been invited."

Thanks for the Solidarity

The Sandinist leader gave thanks for the solidarity that millions of people throughout the world have expressed to Nicaragua. He said they are real Christians and have chosen to struggle for the cause of the poor and oppressed.

He said the Sandinist revolution is "steadfast" in the struggle against exploitation and social injustice, and he expressed hopes for the liberation and independence of peoples oppressed by imperialism.

He stressed the moral strength of international solidarity, which includes Vietnam war veterans, students, workers, peasants, and patriots of the world who have identified with the Nicaraguan revolution and people.

Daniel Ortega yesterday received monetary donations from representatives of Switzerland and from U.S. actor Kris Kristofferson. He also received greetings and expressions of solidarity from the representatives of 40 countries who met in Managua to reiterate their support for the revolution, which serves as a hope for the peoples of the world.

USSR's Vlasov on Cooperation, Agreements

PA2307042989 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov, alternate member of the CPSU Politburo, said today that the Soviet Union will continue to support the Nicaraguan revolution in the political, ideological, and economic spheres. Vlasov, who is also chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said that one of the Soviet Union's best contributions in the political arena will be to mobilize world opinion in support of the Nicaraguan revolution's cause. The USSR's cooperation in the economic sector is outlined in bilateral agreements.

[Begin Vlasov recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] There are some economic problems. We supply the technology, oil, and other resources at levels defined in the bilateral agreements. [end recording]

Vlasov also referred to perestroyka and to internal ethnic conflicts:

[Begin Vlasov recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] We are currently drafting several laws on regional self-administration and self-financing, meaning self-financing at the local level. This will give ample rights to all Soviet Government organizations, ranging from municipal organizations to the highest government organizations. We are studying and defining ways to solve the problems afflicting relations between various ethnic groups. [end recording]

Vlasov met this afternoon with President Ortega, to whom he brought a message of solidarity from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ortega Receives Yordanov, Bulgarian Delegation

AU2307165789 Sofia BTA in English
1619 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, July 23 (BTA)—Mr Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, received Mr Georgi Yordanov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, head of the Bulgarian delegation for celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist People's Revolution.

The president of Nicaragua informed in detail about the complex situation in which the Sandinist National Liberation Front (SLNF) is waging the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. Overcoming the pressure from the outside and of the revolutionary forces in the country he pointed that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is going consistently to the holding in February 1990 of democratic elections which will show the immense support which the SNLF has among the voters in the village and the town.

Issues of Bulgarian-Nicaraguan cooperation were discussed.

Mr Georgi Yordanov met with Mr Henry Ruiz, minister of foreign economic relations of Nicaragua, chairman of the Nicaraguan section of the Bulgaro-Nicaraguan Commission on Economic and Techno-Scientific Cooperation. The prospects were discussed for the development of economic relations between the two countries.

Mr Georgi Yordanov and Mr Henry Ruiz visited in the town of Sebako the largest can combine works in Central America, built by the Bulgarian Economic Organization Bioinvest Engineering in collaboration with Nicaraguan workers and experts.

Inaugurates Bulgarian-Built Plant

AU2107192989 Sofia BTA in English
1853 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, July 21 (BTA special correspondent)—Mr Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, yesterday inaugurated the Camillo Ordonez Ice Works in Managua. The plant, built by the Bulgarian Economic Corporation Bioinvestengineering, will be producing 66 tons of ice in 24 hours and will thus meet the needs of the capital city and the nearby towns.

Mr Georgi Yordanov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, who heads the Bulgarian delegation attending the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Sandinist Revolution, addressed the opening ceremony. He expressed the consistent support and solidarity of the Bulgarian Communist Party, of the government and the Bulgarian people with the just struggle of the Sandinist National Liberation Front for the consolidation of Nicaragua's national independence, for the development of the economy and for the well-being of all Nicaraguans.

President Daniel Ortega presented Bulgarian experts who took part in the construction of the works with Nicaraguan labour distinctions.

The largest cannery works in Central America, the cannery in Sebaco, has been built with the joint efforts of Bulgarian and Nicaraguan workers. Enterprises manufacturing spare parts for transport vehicles and agricultural machinery, transformer repair centres, plastic waste recycling facilities and other plants will soon go into operation, too. Bulgarian experts, employed by the Telecom Economic Organisation, are building an up-to-date communications system which will link Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Transcomplect is working on the Port of Bluefields, a project of major importance for the Nicaraguan economy. This will be the first deep-water harbour on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

Ortega Meets With CSSR Party Official

LD2307172689 Prague CTK in English 1555 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Managua July 23 [CTK correspondent]—Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Sandinista National Liberation Front Executive Commission and President Daniel Ortega received here today member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium and first secretary of the Slovak Communist Party Ignac Janak, at the close of his visit to Nicaragua at the head of a Czechoslovak party and government delegation.

The two officials noted the good level of Czechoslovak-Nicaraguan relations, and agreed that a yet more active approach of the two countries' institutions to the further extension of bilateral cooperation is needed.

They also exchanged views on the present international situation and underlined the need for disarmament and democratization of relations between nations including removal of neocolonialism and discriminatory relations towards the developing countries.

Ignac Janak highy appreciated the approach of the Nicaraguan Government to efforts for a peaceful solution of the crisis in Central America.

SED Member Boehme Heads Visiting Delegation

LD2107112789 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0955 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Managua (ADN)—An extension stage carried out by the GDR and USSR at the Texnicsa textile enterprise in Managua was handed over today [as received] in the presence of Nicaragua's President, Daniel Ortega. Hans-Joachim Boehme, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee Politburo, heading the party and government delegation to the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist popular revolution, conveyed fraternal greetings from the GDR people at a meeting with the employees. He expressed his hope that the new production section will make a further contribution to improving the complex economic situation in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Following the inauguration there was another friendly meeting between Daniel Ortega and his guest. The Nicaraguan president outlined the latest developments in his country and in Central America. He again expressed the high regard of the Sandinist government for the firm solidarity of the SED and all GDR people. Hans-Joachim Boehme assured him that Nicaragua will continue to have a good friend and a reliable partner in the GDR.

The same day there was a cocktail party to mark the 10th anniversary of the introduction of diplomatic relations between the GDR and Nicaragua. The GDR ambassador invited Vice President Sergio Ramirez and Henry Ruiz and Luis Carrion, members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD2307151889 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0158 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Managua (ADN)—An international solidarity fair was opened in Managua yesterday by Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front Executive Commission. Among the guests was a GDR party and government delegation that is in Managua to attend the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinist popular revolution. Delegation leader Hans-Joachim Boehme, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of German [SED] Central Committee and first secretary of the Halle bezirke SED executive, welcomed Bayardo Arce to the GDR stand. The fair is being attended by solidarity and aid committees from all parts of the world which are either active in Nicaragua itself or which organize solidarity campaigns for the Central American country in their home countries. Handicrafts are being sold and information given on the groups' activity in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the GDR delegation has left for home. During its stay, the delegation conducted several talks with leading Nicaragua politicians, including President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez.

Iran's Besharati Continues Anniversary Visit

Meets With Ramirez

LD2207122889 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Iran's first deputy foreign minister briefed Nicaragua's Vice-President Sergio Ramirez on Iraqi impediments in the way of execution of the U.N. Resolution 598, the withdrawal to international boundaries.

Sergio Ramirez told 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in a meeting in Managua Friday that Nicaragua wants full implementation of the resolution because problems would be settled in this way.

The two also discussed the summit of the non-aligned movement in Yugoslavia in September, and rejected any changes which may disturb the fundamental principles of the movement.

Also on Friday Besharati exchanged views on mutual relations and latest developments in the implementation of the Resolution 598 with member of the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana, Kojo Tsikata.

Tsikata called for more contacts between the two countries and establishment of a joint economic commission.

Besharati is in Managua to participate in the ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan revoluionn.

Meets With D'Escoto

LD2307134489 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, currently visiting Managua, today voiced Iran's support for the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to establish peace in Central America.

In a meeting with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, Besharati also lashed out at the U.S. Administration for trying to frustrate Nicaragua's peace efforts.

Briefing D'Escoto on Iran's stance on the UN Resolution 598 and obstacles created on its way by Baghdad, he said withdrawal of Iraqi troops to internationally-recognized borders according to the 1975 accord was a must for progress in the peace talks.

Besharati, saying the Islamic Republic would participate, at a high level, in the forthcoming non-aligned summit in Belgrade, noted that efforts should be made not to let NAM [Nonaligned Movement] deviate from its original path.

D'Escoto underlined the need for the full implementation of Resolution 598 and withdrawal of Iraqi troops, terming Baghdad's excuses for delaying its enforcement as 'foolish'.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister called for further cooperation between the two countries in international circles.

Besharati is in Managua at the head of a delegation to attend ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Sergio Ramirez on Revolution Anniversary
PM2407110689 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 19 Jul 89 p 26

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by Roman Orozco in Managua; date not given]

[Excerpt] Managua—[Passage omitted] [Orozco] It has been 10 years since the victory of the revolution. What successes have been achieved, and what errors have been committed?

[Ramires] The revolution's greatest success is to have survived a policy aimed at destroying the revolutionary process. The errors and achievements cannot be analyzed without taking this crucial point into account.

[Orozco] However, there is undoubtedly a certain level of dissatisfaction with the Sandinist Front, particularly over the serious economic situation. Why have the contras not exploited this dissatisfaction more?

[Ramirez] Despite all the economic difficulties, poverty, shortages, and inflation, although the population is unhappy with this situation—and we cannot expect anyone to be happy with such a situation—the war of aggression has itself imposed a polarization between revolution and counterrevolution. The people have identified the counterrevolution with Somozism.

[Orozco] I the past 2 years there has been some backtracking in the revolutionary process as a result of the economic crisis. Do you agree?

[Ramirez] No party wanting to win an imminent election would implement such a tough program of readjustments as that which the economic situation is forcing us to implement. If we examine Latin America's political traditions, we find the tradition is to allow the country to founder economically in order to win political points. We, however, regard the revolution from a historical perspective not subject to electoral contingencies.

[Orozco] The opposition accuses the government of two things: of having administered the country badly and of corruption.

[Ramirez] I am not going to claim that the country has been administered perfectly. Obviously there have been shortcomings, many of them caused by the emergency situation imposed on us by the aggression (of the contras and the United States). As for corruption, that is totally false, and the opposition itself knows that if there is one thing of which we cannot honestly be accused, it is of having appropriated a single cent.

[Orozco] But they say that high-ranking members of the administration, revolutionary commanders, have numbered accounts abroad...

[Ramirez] For us, honesty is not a political method but a fundamental matter. Honesty is one of our revolutionary principles. We took power not to get rich and buy houses in Miami and to own ranches, but to implement a blueprint for which thousands of our comrades gave their lives.

[Orozco] Are you not rather afraid of a recurrence in the elections of something similar to what happened in Poland?

[Ramirez] They are different situations, and everyone pays for his own mistakes. We have been pluralistic from the outset. With our revolution, we began an unprecedented experiment: accepting the existence of conservative and liberal parties in the country, whereas what would have happened in other revolutions is that they would have been shot, simply for being that—right-wing parties.

[Orozco] Speaking of executions, the opposition says that you have shot 2,000 people since your victory.

[Ramirez] That is an exaggeration. There were executions when the victory was not yet consolidated and there were still several war fronts. Spies and soldiers were shot following the fighting. However, the revolutionary state has not executed anyone. That is the point.

[Orozco] So are you saying that there have been no executions since 19 July 1979?

[Ramirez] I am not saying that none occurred in places where there was no supervision by the central government. However, 10 days after the victory we carried out an operation to round up weapons, in which we collected over 5,000 of them.

[Orozco] If you were to lose the elections now would you surrender the government? Will there not be a Noriega-type coup?

[Ramirez] Of course. If we lose, we will surrender the government.

[Orozco] What about your power?

[Ramirez] Yes. Insofar as a ruling party can tolerate having the Sandinist Front in the oppositon. Because the Front is capable of bringing the country to standstill in a week.

[Orozco] In the early years of the revolution there was a very strong Marxist-Leninist tendency, with portraits of Lenin in all public offices and slogans reading: "This is our path to socialism." How has the revolution changed?

[Ramirez] Some of the revolutionary fervor of the early years was directed toward achieving rapid solutions, as symbolized in those pictures of Lenin and as were achieved in Cuba. I believe that later there was some settling down, as the revolution defined its own path. In 1979 I myself believed that things were easier, that green fields, full granaries, schools, hospitals, and so forth would appear by magic. However, I do not believe that even if we are poor now, we must be so forever.

[Orozco] Had it not been for President Ronald Reagan and the contras, would Nicaragua be closer to the Cuban model now?

[Ramirez] Without a war of aggression, we would have a more solid social base, living standards would be better, the population would have been better satisfied, and the Sandinists' message about the benefits of the revolution would have emerged more clearly.

Borge Predicts Honest Elections for 1990

PA2407140689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Managua, 23 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Interior Minister Tomas Borge said today in Managua that if the ruling FSLN commits fraud in the elections of 25 February "we would be committing a crime against humanity and the revolution would cease to exist."

At the opening of the Eighth International Congress of Solidarity with Central America, Borge railed at the revolution's detractors, who claim that the Sandinists are preparing to commit electoral fraud.

After rejecting charges by the "right," which "gets directives from the United States," the interior minister said that the elections will be "pure, transparent, clean, and honest."

Borge, who is one of the nine commanders on the FSLN Directorate, stressed that the revolution is "immortal" because "its life core lies on its moral authority."

He stressed that the Sandinist government is prepared to hold "the purest elections in Nicaragua's history" and for this reason has authorized observers from the OAS, the United Nations, and the European Parliament to come to Nicaragua and monitor the elections.

After his speech, Borge gave thanks for the presence of 300 international delegations that will meet in Managua for 8 days "to reinvigorate and renew the practice of solidarity" with the Sandinist revolution.

The solidarity meeting was dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution.

Yesterday in Managua Sandinist Commander Bayardo Arce closed the Third Meeting of Committees of Solidarity with Nicaragua, attended by 126 delegations from 40 countries.

Obando y Bravo on Conditions for Elections

PA2407231389 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Statement by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo during his Sunday homily on 23 June in Las Sierritas, Santo Domingo—recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] some people do not care to vote. They say that life goes on the same whether or not they vote. I do not believe people should be indifferent to this. I believe Christians should look into what party they would like to participate in to see whether it would be worthwhile to get involved in a party. Christians must find out which parties offer more hope [words indistinct] and think about who they will vote for. Christians should not be indifferent on election day. They must rise early and go to vote for the sake of the people's common good. When I am asked who I think will be the candidate, I [words indistinct]. I have often said that the church hierarchy should stay clear of partisan matters. I have often said that these are matters for laymen. However, we, the church hierarchy, must teach the people through the gospel what is going on. We want to teach them how to behave on election day.

To ensure that the results of this plesbiscite are clean and morally acceptable, certain conditions must exist:

1. There should be a good turnout of qualified voters to ensure that the elections are a true expression of the national will.

2. All [words indistinct] must have access to television, other media, and other means to disseminate political propaganda to ensure that voters are adequately informed.

3. There should be no pressure of any kind on the voters.

4. The voting and vote counting must be conducted in such a way that anyone can certify their legitimacy.

We ask the Lord [words indistinct] to create a more humane and fraternal world and to help us be compassionate.

Minister Announces July Inflation Rate

PA2307042489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Planning and Budget Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca announced during a news conference that the adjustment measures to control inflation are obtaining the results desired by the government. Martinez Cuenca reported that July's inflation rate amounted to only 10 percent, while inflation registered 72.2 percent in June, and 126.6 percent last December.

The planning and budget minister said that the Sandinist government's goal is to reduce inflation to a single digit figure by the end of this year, and he confirmed that the government is making plans to revitalize priority economic sectors next year.

Panama

Station Warns of CIA-Sponsored Guerrillas

PA2507040989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2345 GMT 24 Jul 89

["Alert to Citizens" program]

[Text] Last weekend, the London newspaper THE TIMES reported actions to the world that clearly demonstrate how infamous and evil the present U.S. Government can be in its actions against our noble and hospitable country. According to a report that was picked up and repeated by the Spanish news agency EFE, the CIA has formed a guerrilla movement using former Nicaraguan contras to inflict death, destruction, and bloodshed on our people, as it is currently doing in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and other places in the world.

THE TIMES reports that the CIA is recruiting Nicaraguans because there are no Pananamians whom the CIA can trust. In other words, although the CIA knows that Panamanians would reject such a criminal action and would fight against it in the jungles, streets, plains, cities, rural areas, and wherever necessary, the CIA has, nevertheless, looked for soldiers of fortune and mercenaries to massacre and murder our people.

CIA actions in Latin America are no secret. Many books uncover and describe its evil actions and the little value it places on the lives of our people as compared to the importance it places on its own people's lives. Panamanians have been able to note this very well. U.S. troops, under the command of a general called Marc Cisneros [U.S. Army South commander], who has genocidal instincts, have held military maneuvers to harass and intimidate the Panamanian people—maneuvers which completely violate the Panama Canal Treaties.

The United States covers up its iniquity and its daily evil actions against our nation's peace by using the excuse of protecting U.S. citizens' lives. U.S. citizens' lives have never been endangered in Panama. However, U.S. troops aim their cannons, machineguns, planes, helicopters, and ships at the heart of our defenseless people. U.S. citizens themselves are sickened by the arrogance displayed by the troops under Marc Cisneros' command.

Alert to Citizens: Resist wisely, because what the CIA offers us is bloodshed, crime, destruction, death, and subjugation for those who manage to survive the holocaust. Alert to Citizens: Use resistance to confront intimidation. To confront guerrillas, you have to prepare for the struggle and die if necessary until the Yankee imperialists' infamous actions against us move the consciences of all countries in the world.

Television Denounces U.S. Army Maneuvers

PA2207025889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2332 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] From 0300 until noon today, U.S. Army troops engaged in a number of operations in reverted or white areas—civilian areas—without the appropriate advanced coordination with the Joint Committee for the Defense of the Canal or with COGECODESE [General Command of the Defense and Security Commission]. This situation caused uneasiness, anxiety, even panic among civilians.

Reports indicate that at approximately 0300 armored vehicles carrying troops left the Howard Air Force Base for the Diablo area. Later, 25 amphibious armored personnel carriers were transported by barge to Rodman Naval Base along with 25 M-713 armored vehicles.

U.S. soldiers also marched from Fort Kobbe across the Bridge of the Americas to the town of Palo Seco and then to Howard Air Force Base, an action that constitutes yet another act of arrogance and aggression. Throughout the morning, and with contempt for Panamanian civilians, U.S. combat aircraft overflew Ancon, Balboa, El Chorrillo, and San Felipe neighborhoods. Schools had to be evacuated because of the students' panic and hysteria. In addition, area residents expressed their outrage and concern over a possible accident where the lives of

innocent Panamanians could be lost. Besides A-7 military aircraft, Cobra helicopters and other types of helicopters overflew the Panama Defense Forces Central Headquarters and El Chorrillo neighbhorhood in pairs.

This action shows how deranged U.S. Army South Commander General Marc Cisnero is. Televisora Nacional's office received many telephone calls from frightened civilians who were outraged by the intimidating and arrogant actions of the U.S. Army, which is carrying out these actions at a time when the OAS is asking for the suspension of U.S. economic and military sanctions against Panama. The colossus of the North, however, is once again trying to make a mockery of this continental organization.

In the Amador area, at approximately 0930, the U.S. Army carried out the so-called "Operation Thunder," which consisted of a rehearsed evacuation of its civilian population. During this—needless to say intimidating—operation, the U.S. soldiers drove their heavily armed personnel carriers outside the COGECODESE installations. The Panamanian Government was not duly or properly notified in advance of this operation.

At the same time this land deployment was going on, combat aircraft and helicopters overflew Panamanian military installations in Amador. They also placed two landing barges outside the Amador officers' club, where they evacuated 100 persons.

Top-ranking Panamanian officers, who witnessed these military exercises, said they constitute an act of provocation and yet another show of military force before a defenseless nation. Today's actions by U.S. soldiers, led by Marc Cisneros—the failed general of the Bay of Pigs and Vietnam—in addition to constituing a flagrant violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties as well as an arrogant bullying by the strongest nation in the world of a weak country and a friendly people, also constitutes a slap in the face of the OAS by imperialism at a time when that organization is helping to find a political and peaceful solution to the Panamanian situation—a solution to be reached by Panamanians, without the interference of a foreign power that acts recklessly, criminally, and with warmongering arrogance.

Commentary Criticizes 'Exercises'

PA2407183389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The claim that U.S. Army military exercises are designed to protect the lives of U.S. citizens has again been invalidated, because U.S. citizens themselves say that their safety has never been jeopardized on Panamanian soil.

Let us not forget that the same claim was used to deploy Marines to Grenada where dozens of U.S. youths, who were pursuing studies, said that they were never threatened.

The exercise to evacuate U.S. personnel from the Gorgas Hospital is the most recent excuse to give free rein to yet another phase of a psychological war that has been unleashed to test the Panamanians' patience. Amid the dangerous mobilization of troops and tanks near the Gorgas Hospital, a female U.S. citizen told naive and disoriented soldiers, who have just recently arrived to reinforce the Southern Command contingent, that they have been misinformed, because no U.S. citizen has ever been harrassed in Panama. We saw this revealing moment on television.

History has shown that deploying U.S. troops with the trivial excuse of defending U.S. interests and citizens has often been used to justify authentic violations of people's sovereingty.

Apparently, the strategists of the invading Army believe that time is frozen; that they can continue this masquerade without ever having to face worldwide condemnation and vigorous rejection as if everyone is blindfolded and believes the fairy tales used to justify the flagrant violations of Panamanian territory and airspace over the past few days.

U.S. generals, who are involved in actions to destabilize Panama, must first prove that U.S. nationals are not at ease here, that they face danger around every corner, before justifiably conducting war exercises, which have surprised even the citizens they claim to protect.

Despite the heavy mist of disinformation, they have been unable to come up with even a single instance in which a U.S. citizen has been the victim of a hostile policy. We demand that U.S. citizens in Panama exercise their rights and comply with their duties as canal administration partners. We welcome with frank hospitality their investments in progress.

Displays of force based on stale and outdated arguments do not convince even U.S. citizens who are being used to justify already routine violations of canal treaties that they signed and swore to honor.

Without going too far, we need only ask one of the thousands of U.S. citizens who enjoy the tropical beauty of Amador's Causeway if he feels threatened. It is probable that General Marc Cisneros, commander of the U.S. Army South, has never been there.

PRD Calls for Resistance

PA2507033889 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Jul 89 pp 1, 8

[Communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, National Executive Committee—date and place not given]

[Text] U.S. Army battalions in combat gear, supported by columns of armored vehicles, attack helicopters, and fighter planes, have again violated our sovereignty by

entering Panamanian territory. Those arrogant acts of provocation and intimidation are an offense to our nation's dignity and the dignity of all Latin American nations. Such actions are repeated violations of international law and of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

By conducting dangerous maneuvers in sensitive and densely populated areas of our country, the occupying army displays contempt for the OAS resolution. That army is challenging the OAS resolution. The occupying army is deliberately hindering the national dialogue. In its attempt to impose a neocolonialist status on our people, that occupying army is conducting manuevers that will lead to a new military occupation of Panama. In view of the situation, we must report this very serious and dangerous intervention at all international forums, and we must ask for international solidarity to try to contain this military escalation through legal and peaceful means. However, above all, it is imperative that we organize our country's communities to form a national patriotic resistance front to permanently expel the invader from our country.

The PRD calls on all Panamanian patriots to form fronts to defend Panamanian sovereignty in their cities, communities, hamlets, mountains, plains, and neighborhoods throughout our country.

The PRD also calls on all Panamanian patriots to march with Omar [Torrijos] on 31 July for our country's total sovereignty and liberation and to reject the aggression against Panama and the threats of U.S. intervention.

Our nation belongs to all of its worthy and patriotic children. We are all responsible for defending and transforming the country and for making it more fair, free, and sovereign. Along with all those Panamanians willing to defend the nation's integrity, we call on all of you to get organized and to contribute to the attainment of a popular, nationalist, and liberating democracy.

[Signed] National Executive Committee

Editorial on U.S. 'Exercises'

PA2307141789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Jul 89 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "The Intransigence of the Defeated"]

[Text] The invading U.S. Army stationed on the banks of the Panama Canal has once again intimidated the Panamanian people with its arrogance and excessive show of force in a useless display of boastfulness. This is becoming routine in a "psychological war" against a defenseless people, whose only crime is having signed a treaty with a nation whose irresponsible rulers no longer want to honor it and who are using of all of its war power toward their own ends.

Evidently, the so-called "exercises" of the U.S. Army South commanded by General Marc Cisneros—which began early Friday morning and consisted of, among other maneuvers, a warlike display of an impressive convoy of over 100 armored personnel carriers along the Bridge of the Americas and harassment by helicopters flying at low altitude over the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Headquarters—are in response to the decision adopted yesterday by the 21st OAS Consultative Meeting.

The invading army has never agreed with the idea of a negotiated solution, because it advocates a forceful solution that will install in the Republic of Panama a docile government that will renegotiate a new Panama Canal treaty to allow the Americans to stay in sovereign Panamanian territory after the year 2000—according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the Americans must leave our fatherland at noon on 31 December 1999.

The invading U.S. Army that is insulting and humiliating our soil and trying to intimidate our peaceful people by seeking the slightest reason for its excessive provocation to justify the final invasion and takeover of the country, is desperate and has given evidence to the world of what our defenseless nation has been shouting about for nearly 3 years, when this unjust and inconceivable aggression of the most powerful nation of the world began—the United States does not want to comply with the treaties and wants to establish a puppet government in Panama on 1 September.

At first, the OAS did not grasp the depth and scope of the imperialist power's game. When the OAS foreign ministers' mission led by the Ecuadoran Diego Cordovez came to Panama, it witnessed these facts, and then it tried to counter the forceful measures of the invading U.S. Army and find a negotiated solution to the "impasse" created by the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Since the intransigent and ill-tempered opposition wanted the OAS to become an electoral tribunal and decide who should be the new dignitaries of the Panamanian Government, it is now shamelessly screaming, saying that the organization that they initially praised and promoted is now incompetent and not qualified to settle the Panama crisis.

This is a shameful Panamanian opposition. It is not even worthy of comment, inasmuch as their behavior is ruled by orders from Washington, which throws them into a most despicable loss of prestige. Who will believe the alleged seriousness of individuals who today say they are pleased and publicly announce it without even blushing, and then the following day renounce, rant over, and swear at the same organization that just a few hours before they claimed was qualified to settle Panama's internal conflict?

Since this obscure, treacherous, wicked, and opportunistic opposition thinks only of how it can easily solve its own situation, it is not surprising that it has turned itself over, body and soul, to the imperialist power that, sharing this same despair (some want to reach power no matter what, while the others want to place docile monkeys in power that will allow them to stay in sovereign Panamanian territory) is worn out and falls into ridicule with such warmongering outrages that only continue to mar their prestige before the eyes a world that is slowly removing its blindfolds.

With the most abominable treason, this crawling and shameful opposition that is sheltered in the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, and the invading army of the backward and ruined empire will continue to be rejected by the most pure and noble patriotism of our people and the internationalist avalanche that repudiates them for their cursed stands. Panama will win, because history is on our side, there is no doubt about that.

Solis Palma on Holding Elections After 1 Sep

PA2507003789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, said that new elections should be held in a truly democratic atmosphere without intervention. He also referred to the Executive Branch's position on the search for solutions to the national crisis. [passage omitted]

Regarding the elections, Solis Palma said that holding new elections will be up to the new administration that will take office on 1 September.

[Begin Solis Palma recording] That government will have to consider whether the conditions in the country at that time are right for holding elections. For example, if the economic aggression is suspended by the time that the new administration takes office, and if the economy has improved to the desired level by then, elections could be held within the short term. However, if these conditions do not exist, then Panama would have to wait longer, because a basic requirement for holding any elections is that a minimum of the indispensable conditions exist for holding the elections in a truly democratic atmosphere without intervention. [end recording]

OAS Reaches 'Conclusions' To Offer Solutions

PA2107152989 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 21 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Proof of the Panamanian People's Maturity"]

[Text] After a long and intense job of consultations, observations, analysis, and receiving information from the original sources of the Panamanian problem, the OAS has reached conclusions that allow it to make statements about the problem and offer possible solutions.

In essence, the recommendation made by the OAS calls for new elections as soon as possible, following the installation of a provisional government in accordance with the constitutional requirement for a transfer of power on 1 September.

With regard to the new elections, the OAS declaration represents an acceptance by that organization of the annulment of the 7 May elections as ordered by the Panama Electoral Tribunal [TEP] and later approved by the Supreme Court of Justice. The OAS most surely arrived at this conclusion after seeing firsthand the irregularities that occurred during the May elections. One of those irregularities is that when the TEP annulled the elections, it had only received 201 of the 4,225 tally sheets while, in a suspicious and premeditated manner, the opposition already had all those documents. Those documents were also in the hands of other organizations that had nothing to do with the electoral process.

Regarding the transfer of power, the OAS has recognized Panama's internal procedures for the implementation of this important step. The OAS thus disregarded all sorts of demands based on the alleged results of the questioned and annulled elections.

Finding an end to this long, difficult journey along the path of uncertainty and unrest is now in the hands of the Panamanian people—exclusively in the hands of the Panamanian people. Now it is entirely up to our maturity to find the adequate way to form a provisional government that will be responsible for paving the way for new elections. These new elections must be held with total freedom; with respect for the people's rights; without tricks, bribes, foreign intervention, or threats; and without the economic limitations that were a decisive factor in the annulment of the elections, in which we all lost because we allowed foreign intervention in an exclusively Panamanian affair.

Endara Communique Demands Noriega Departure

PA2507000989 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2307 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] On 22 July, the opposition agreed to postpone until this week its final decision on whether to participate in the OAS-sponsored dialogue with the government parties and the military. According to a communique issued by former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara—who signed the communique as president-elect—the opposition will determine its position on the OAS' efforts after sounding out the opinion of its organizations. The opposition analyzed the results of the 20 July OAS meeting and reiterated that it will remain loyal to the objectives of the struggle for democratization and to the principle that the people's will, as expressed at the elections, must be respected. At the end of the consultation meeting, Guillermo Endara read a communique:

[Begin Endara recording, in progress] ...met today with its political directorate to consider the results of the third session of the 21st OAS consultative meeting. On this occasion, it was unanimously reaffirmed that we remain loyal to the basic objectives of the Panamanian people's struggle for democratization, of respect for the people's will as expressed on 7 May, and we call for the departure as soon as possible of General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces].

It was also unanimously decided that we will meet again next week to establish our position on the OAS' efforts, after having sounded out the opinion of our people and our organizations. This document was signed today, 22 July 1989. [end recording]

Arias Calderon Comments on OAS Meeting

PA2507004889 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2319 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Party and former vice presidential candidate, said on his arrival in Panama that some sections of the final OAS resolution on the Panamanian crisis are contradictory while others contain positive aspects. Arias Calderon was welcomed at the Omar Torrijos international airport by ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] leaders Guillermo Endara and Guillermo Ford and a large number of supporters.

Arias Calderon arrived from Washington where he attended the OAS consultation meeting.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The report of the commission that visited Panama clearly stresses that there can be no solution if Noriega does not leave. That confirms what the people expressed on 7 May, that Noriega should leave and that Endara should assume power.

[Reporter] Will you withdraw from the tripartite dialogue commission?

[Arias Calderon] For the time being we are only evaluating the results [of the OAS meeting], which are obviously contradictory but which contain a positive aspect. Latin America and the entire OAS know that the foreign ministers mission, which has come to Panama on three occasions, has clearly stated that there can be no solution in Panama as long as General Noriega does not leave.

[Reporter] Will you accept the elections annulment?

[Arias Calderon] No OAS document mentions the annulment of the elections. The Panamanian people, who are sovereign, know that they voted for Cuchungo [Guillermo] Endara.

[Reporter] (?Would you) agree to new elections?

[Arias Calderon] The people have already very clearly made their choice. [end recording]

Maritime Chamber Warns of Uncertain Canal Future

PA2307222289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Jul 89 p B-8

[Communique issued by the Maritime Chamber of Panama on 18 July 1989; place not given]

[Text] As the mouthpiece of Panama Canal users and in order to reflect the concern of the international maritime community, the Maritime Chamber of Panama wishes to express its anxiety regarding the future stability and efficiency of the Panama Canal.

The canal has been operating normally thus far despite the political polarization and economic deterioration in Panama, which have resulted from the conflict between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. However, there is a growing fear that if the current political impasse continues, it will affect canal operations and, consequently, the users of the canal. This is not to mention the serious consequences that may ensue for Panama because, aside from the fact that the current problems may become more extreme, the canal has been losing importance in the sphere of world transportation, thus making it imperative to increase the canal's efficiency and reliability.

Under the circumstances, and from the standpoint of the canal users, the appointment of the Panamanian administrator—which would be routine in normal circumstances—takes on very special dimensions because it will be the first tangible indication of the approach Panama will take to establishing the organization that will administer and operate the canal after the year 2000, when it will be turned over completely to Panama.

The qualifications that the proposed candidate for canal administrator should have were discussed at length on a national level. We do not wish to question the high qualifications and merits of the candidate who was selected; however, no matter how just or unjust the process was, the procedure that was followed to make the appointment left the international maritime industry with the impression that there will be much political interference, even partisan political interference, in the handling of the canal. In other words, there is a growing concern among users that the canal will be subject to political maneuvering—with all the negative implications this may have with regard to the canal's stability and the increasing efficiency that will be indispensable if Panama wants to take up the challenge of managing the canal, which is facing a constant proliferation of alternative routes for the transportation of goods.

We call on the Panamanian authorities to look at canal problems with the eyes of statesmen and to take the sensible and responsible actions that are required under the circumstances in order to show Panamanians and the

rest of the world that we are preparing to handle the canal with comparable or even greater efficiency than the United States has up to now.

[Signed] Maritime Chamber of Panama
Edmond M. Watchtel, president

IPCE Reports Seafood Exports Increase

PA2407152289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p 2

[Summary] IPCE [Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute] Exports Director Victor Lay has reported that Panamanian seafood sales on the international market have shown a substantial increase during the first half of the year, adding that between January and May, exports produced $7.7 million in revenues. According to Lay, shrimp is Panama's main seafood export product and that it has had good acceptance on the international market. Lay said that the United States, Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Canada, and Guatemala are the main importers of Panamanian seafood.

Argentina

President Comments on Rapprochement With UK

PY2407173789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1635 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Jul (TELAM-ANSA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has affirmed that "both his country and Great Britain are interested in overcoming the Malvinas conflict," but noted that so far there have been no official contacts, either in public or in private, between the two governments.

In statements to the local newspaper EL PAIS, which were carried on the front page, Menem said that the reports on the likelihood of a meeting between both countries in Uruguay or Brazil next year "are nothing but rumors."

However, the Argentine head of state admitted that "some presidents" are seeking a rapprochement that will lead to a meeting at which a solution to the conflict over the South Atlantic archipelago's sovereignty can be sought. Menem said: "Some presidents are working toward that end, and we can count on the good offices of the Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti."

The Argentine President recalled that Brazil represents Argentine interests in Great Britain and Switzerland represents British interests in Argentina. He noted that "talks at those levels continue," but he observed that direct "contacts between both governments have not yet been made."

Menem said that the meeting in Paris between President Sanguinetti and Prime Minister Thatcher came about "simply out of the wish to bring the parties closer. This wish was expressed by Mrs Thatcher to President Sanguinetti, anticipating the possibility that relations between Argentina and Great Britain can be restored; it was nothing more than this."

Asked about other current topics in Argentina, Menem told EL PAIS that "toward the end of the year, hyperinflation might be brought under control," and that "an annual inflation of 15 percent is expected for 1990." He added that "some advances have been made in the economic area, "but we cannot yet say that we are out of the economic woods, because that would be expressing an opinion that lacks seriousness."

Presidential Advisor To Address Nation on Debt

PY2407175989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1518 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jul (TELAM)—Presidential Advisor Alvaro Alsogaray has announced that he will address the nation next Thursday or Friday to present "the real situation of the country's foreign debt to the public."

He also said that "most likely" he will meet this week with Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo to discuss aspects related to "the public treatment of the foreign debt."

Alsogaray met today with Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli for an hour at the Palacio de Hacienda. As he left the Economy Ministry building, Alsogaray told the press that "the Central Bank and the Economy Ministry have a fundamental role in the public treatment of the foreign debt, because they know well the channels for dialogue."

Naval Prefect, Deputy Prefect Installed

PY2407151589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1433 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Jul (TELAM)—Defense Minister Italo Luder today installed Prefect General Victor Washington Zibell and Prefect General Osvaldo Ruben Salomone as the new national naval prefect and deputy prefect, respectively. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet To Remain in Hospital for 5 Days

PY2507000289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] After undergoing surgery for an inguinal hernia, President Pinochet is making an excellent recovery. He is recovering well, without fever, and is in stable condition. This was stated by (Henry Olivier), chief of the presidential medical services, in a report released in La Moneda Government House.

[Begin (Olivier) recording] I would like to inform you that the president has spent a good night and woke up well today. He is recovering without any fever, and his vital signs are stable. He got up and walked around his room. He resumed oral feeding. That is all. Thank you. [end recording]

When asked whether the president will remain 5 days in the military hospital as foreseen, Dr (Olivier) said that it is the usual procedure in these cases. The doctor expressed his optimism because, he said, everything is developing as expected.

Humanist, Green Parties Support CPPD

PY2407205289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Jose Tomas Saenz, spokesman for the alliance made up of the Humanist and Green Parties, has said that his alliance will remain in the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] as long the CPPD complies with its political platform. Saenz officially announced that his alliance will not withdraw from the CPPD.

[Begin Saenz recording] I think that our parties should support a peaceful transition to democracy. We mainly want to maintain economic growth in the country, but we also want to improve the distribution of wealth, social justice, and real freedom.

If we want to witness and participate in this democratic triumph, we must certainly support the next government within the terms to which we have already agreed. We are therefore committed to supporting the CPPD, its political platform, and its president for 4 years. [Words indistinct] as long as the CPPD's political platform and promises are complied with, we will support it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PS Gives Views of Socialist International

PY2407235289 Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 17-23 Jul 89 pp 20-25

[Document entitled "Agreements on the Socialist International" released by the Chilean Socialist Party, PS, in Costa Azul, Chile, on 1 June and signed by PS Secretary General Ricardo Nunez and party leaders Jorge Arrete, Ricardo Lagos, Aniceto Rodriguez, and Erik Schnake]

[Text] 1. During the years of dictatorship, Chilean foreign relations were divided into two processes. On the one hand, as the dictatorship became more and more isolated, it was increasingly condemned in international forum and repudiated by international public opinion. On the other hand, as more and more countries and organizations expressed their support for a free Chile and generously granted their solidarity to our cause, our organizations and democratic parties became increasingly open to the world. Thus, they expanded their horizons and contributed their experiences.

2. During this period, the party has substantially strengthened its international relations and enhanced its vision of the international situation. It has strengthened its ties with the Latin American peoples' revolutionary and democratic cause, and it has fully immersed itself in the great debates of world socialism. To these debates we brought our views on a profoundly renewed leftist socialism committed to democracy, development, and social change.

3. Our relations with the parties that make up the International Socialist [SI] and with the SI organization itself have been enriched within this context. This strengthening of ties has been the result of two things. First, it is based on the position that in compliance with its principles the SI has upheld regarding the Chilean situation. In October 1973, a few days after the coup, SI Chairman Willy Brandt condemned the end of the Chilean democracy and President Allende's assassination at the UN General Assembly. At the time he also said this was a great step backward for those who aspired to achieve socialism through democratic means. Since then, the SI has been permanently mobilized in favor of Chile by making the Chilean cause and Salvador Allende the symbols of all international struggle for democracy and change. It is within this framework of interest and cooperation that the voice of Chilean Socialism has been heard and our ideas and proposals praised.

4. The second reason stems from the process of expansion and transformation experienced by the SI in the past 2 decades. The overall process of change that took place in the world during this period—the technological revolution, the growing interdependence among nations, expansion of communications, global nuclear and military proliferation, the emergence of developing countries as international counterparts, the worsening of extreme poverty and international inequalities, the progress of liberation struggles in the Third World, international awareness of the values of democracy and human rights—has also effected major changes in the ideas and positions of socialist parties around the world. In this framework, the SI has expanded its outlook, has increasingly renewed its ideas and, above all, has accepted pluralism within its fold as well as a broad internal debate about the best way to promote the cause of an autonomous, democratic socialism. It should be noted that this debate acquired a democratic, antifascist content as a result of the major role played by socialist forces that have engaged in a long antifascist struggle.

5. Thus, the SI has changed from an exclusively European organization to a worldwide organization of autonomous parties, which is increasingly giving priority to debating and reaching agreements on major issues of interest to socialist parties from poor, dependent countries; which is taking energetic action to promote peace and human rights; and which is reflecting on the great objectives of socialism around the world. The SI has had a growing presence in Latin America to support Central America, to defend Nicaragua, to promote our cause in international organizations, and to decisively support the democratization of all South American countries.

6. In sum, our closer ties with the SI are not based on a contingency situation but are a result of the global process of transformation experienced by socialism which, after many years of division, is moving toward dialogue and unity.

It should be noted that this trend is closely linked to ideas that our party has always promoted. Socialism in the world today values democracy, which has been a permanent item in our proposal; recognizes no myths; fully assumes the essentially critical nature of the socialist doctrine and praxis. Socialism has thus discovered something we have always advocated: The great challenge for socialism is to achieve a permanent coexistence of democracy, justice, and social change. The process of renovation experienced by socialism worldwide and the agreement of all socialist forces have eliminated barriers that used to separate us and have placed on the threshold of immeasurable prospects for promoting our socialist

ideas. We Chilean Socialists cannot fail to take part in this agreement. We must make our contribution because, based on our experience and ideological training, we have much to give.

7. These reasons would be enough to fully justify the establishment of organizational ties with the Socialist International. However, we also believe it is important to make it clear that these ties are compatible with the party's long-standing principles on international matters.

In the first place, Chilean Socialism has always been internationalist. In the party's 1947 Program, Eugenio Gonzalez proposed international socialism as our own cause. The Socialist International is currently the world's broadest socialist forum. Its discussions are relevant because of their substance, the importance of the participant member parties, and the strength of SI resolutions. The SI is, therefore, a forum in which we will contribute our own ideas. We are joining this forum supported by our growing political strength; our party's history, which is marked by heroism; our solid organization; and our ideas of socialist renewal, which we have been implementing over the past few years. We are aware of the interest in our experience, and we believe that it would be selfish not to contribute our ideas to an organization where they could gain acceptance, and importance and could have impact.

In the second place, our presence in the Socialist International reaffirms our party's Latin American calling. Today, 17 Latin American parties are already members of the Socialist International, and many other parties are approaching it. Even more important is the consistent policy pursued by the Socialist International, supporting the democratic and libertarian struggles in Latin America.

We can favor an even closer approach by linking our international presence to the struggle of the Latin American peoples. With this resolution to join the Socialist International, Latin American socialism, which we now chair, will be supplemented and strengthened.

In the third place, the Chilean Socialist Party has always claimed to be autonomous. We do not think our autonomy is threatened or limited by our presence in an organization which does not impose or encourage certain lines of action to other socialist parties. Over the years we have never been pressured by the SI. However, we have similar viewpoints, we can hold dialogues, our decisions are respected, and the SI supports our struggle. We can therefore join the SI and keep our autonomy which can be strengthened by world socialism.

Furthermore, our position within the SI does not mean we will restrict our relations with other realities of the socialist world. We are also interested in a dialogue about other experiences such as those currently taking place in the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Poland. One of our goals is to build on these relations. We do not think this goal is incompatible with membership in the SI. First, these branches also maintain links and a dialogue with the SI. Second, the fusion of socialist and democratic ideals can tear down barriers and open doors for a dialogue to overcome historic socialist divisions.

Therefore, and in pursuit of these objectives, the 25th Chilean Socialist Party Congress has decided:

1. To issue an application for membership in the SI as a consultative member.

2. To authorize the Political Commission and the secretary general to begin negotiations and study the conditions for our affiliation. The result of the negotiations and agreements will be submitted for the consideration of a party central committee plenum which will ratify them.

[Signed] JORGE ARRATE
RICARDO NUNEZ
RICARDO LAGOS
ANICETO RODRIGUEZ
ERIK SCHNAKE
[Dated] Costa Azul, 1 June 1989

Carabineros Chief Informs Court on Occupation
PY2407153789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] General Manuel Mardones, the chief of the Carabineros Metropolitan Zone, has officially informed the San Miguel Appellate Court that several armed groups, comprising some 30 people, have participated in the occupation of the Salvador Dali Village, which is under construcion in La Quintana.

The report, Number 250, sent to the court, states:

The following people have directly participated in the planning and occupation of the village: Claudina Nunez Jimenez, Rolando Jimenez Perez, Oscar Pena Barraza, and Eduardo Valencia Saenz, who belong to the Metropolitan Dwellers Coordinating Board, and Jose Astorga, Gabriel Rojas, Nelida Fernandez, and Diana Menezes.

It adds that before the arrival of the villagers, two armed individuals showed up. They were led by Humberto Hales Contreras Silva while some 30 people remained outside the village. Jorge Javier Parraguez Moreno was among these people. When police personnel arrived he hurled two hand-grenades which did not go off. This group was reportedly acting as security guards, and they are presumably involved in the murder of one of the villagers. [passage omitted]

Security Officer Kills Socialist Youth

PY2407215689 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 17-23 Jul 89 p 28

[Text] Public opinion has been shocked by the murder of Socialist militant Raul Valdes. Valdes was shot to death by a security officer of the KV Movie and Television Studio. The officer had discovered Valdes scratching a slogan on a wall asking that Clodomiro Almeyda be allowed to run for the Senate. The incident occurred at approximately 1700 on 8 July near the corner of Catedral and Almirante Barroso Streets as Valdes, his wife, and another Socialist militant were walking away from the KV Studio. A lawsuit was filed against Guard Rene Poblete in Santiago's fourth criminal court.

Valdes' remains were buried at the General Cemetery on 10 July. During the occasion, Army personnel dressed in civilian clothes fired from inside the cemetery against people attending the funeral.

Three Alleged Terrorists Arrested in Santiago

PY2407191389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Three individuals have been placed at the disposal of the Santiago 2d Military Court. One of the individuals is a minor. They are believed to be members of the self-styled Lautaro Youth Movement, which participated in a series of crimes including the murder of Carabinero Corporal Julio Padez Ortiz last 18 May.

This information was disclosed during a news conference by Colonel Oscar Tapia Perez, commander of the Special Police Service, who also said that one of the individuals had been paid 40,000 Chilean pesos for murdering Corporal Padez and 35,000 Chilean pesos for participating in another similar crime.

The arrested persons have been identified as: Jorge Leandro Escobar Diaz, 24; Marco Antonio Mardones Villaroel, 27; and the minor, identified as S.H.L.D., 17. [passage omitted]

International Expedition To Explore Antarctica

PY2407180089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A Soviet Aeroflot Airlines plane has arrived in Punta Arenas with six members of a multinational expedition that will explore the frozen continent until January. The expedition will travel over 5,000 km of Antarctic territory in 7 months. Vicente Caballero from Radio Nacional de Chile in Punta Arenas provides more details:

[Begin Caballero recording] In the next few hours, a Russian C-141 [designation as heard] from Aeroflot Airlines will fly to the Teniente Marsh Base in Chilean Antarctica carrying six members of an expedition that will cross the white continent from the O'Higgins area to the Russian base at Mirnyy Station on the Indian Ocean. The Soviet plane, according to information given to Radio Nacional by the local coordinator of the expedition, (Chuck Mackley), has come from Argentina—where it made its last technical stopover—carrying 50 passengers and the 40 polar dogs that will pull the three sleighs on this transpolar journey. He also said that the expedition members—(name indistinct) Japan, (Viktor Voyadiskiy) from the Soviet Union, (Kim Dae) from China [not further specified] , (George Plometh) from Great Britain, [name indistinct] from France, and (William Spent), head of the expedition, from the United States—have expressed their appreciation for the reception extended to them in Punta Arenas. [passage indistinct]

Also arriving in Punta Arenas on this flight was (Artur Shiligarov), vice minister of the USSR state committee on hydromethodology, who expressed his satisfaction with being the first Soviet citizen to come to Punta Arenas in many years. He is traveling with PRAVDA editor Vladimir Esmergeriv. The polar journey will start on 1 August. [end recording]

Comparison of New PAIS Executive Board

PY2407210689

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish on 16 July runs an article on page 2 noting the names of the new executive board of Chile's Broad Party of the Socialist Left, PAIS. The EL MERCURIO article has been compared with the Santiago Domestic Service Spanish version published in the 19 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 63, revealing the following variations:

page 63, column one, paragraph two, only sentence reads in EL MERCURIO: The new PAIS vice presidents are listed as Denise Pascal Allende, Manuel Riesco, Patricio Rivas, and Humberto Martones... (changing Denis to Denise and Francisco to Patricio)

Colombia

FARC Guerrillas Kill Soldiers, Councilmen

PA2407160589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0327 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jul (EFE)—According to military reports, three soldiers were killed and one was wounded today in an ambush set by the communist group of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] in a rural area in central Colombia.

In the Antioquia and Huila regions, in northwest and southern Colombia, respectively, two councilmen were murdered by unidentified assailants and a police inspector was executed by a FARC column during a raid on a small town.

During the ambush, the guerrillas attacked a military patrol from the Silvio Plazas Battalion of the 1st Army Brigade in the San Antonio area, near Miraflores Municipality, about 220 km north of Bogota.

Three soldiers were killed and one was wounded during the action, military sources said, adding that reinforcements are being sent to the San Antonio area to try to prevent the guerrillas, who belong to the 4th FARC front, from retreating.

The same group went to the town of La Susana, near Maceo Municipality, Antioquia Department, and executed police inspector Eutimio de Jesus Munoz by firing squad.

Councilmen Edilberto de Jesus Renteria and Lorenzo Hoyos Cordoba were also murdered by unidentified individuals, the police said.

Renteria, who was 42, was found dead in the town of Calle Nueva, Caceres Municipality, Antioquia Department.

Hoyos Cordoba was murdered in his home in Palestina Municipality, Huila region, about 380 km south of Bogota, by two unidentified assailants who entered his home, shot him, and fled, the police reported.

Invites Government To Begin Talks

PA2507040589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0325 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jul (AFP)—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) today invited the Colombian Government to their camp in the mountains of southeastern Meta Department to begin direct peace talks.

The invitation was included in a communique that the FARC General Command sent to Colombian Interior Minister Orlando Vasquez, who said that he will study the proposal.

FARC, the oldest and largest Colombian guerrilla group, has been inactive since last February when it decided to decree a unilateral truce to prove its "desire for peace" to the government.

The FARC's decision to begin direct peace talks with the government was announced a few weeks ago during the summit of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, which is made up of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), and the Indian Quintin Lame Front.

The M-19 [19 April Movement] has made great progress in the peace process that it—unlike the other armed insurgent groups—began early this year.

A few weeks ago and after various meetings with the FARC, a nongovernment commission advised President Virgilio Barco's government to begin direct talks with the FARC.

M-19 Leader Calls for Constitutional Reform

PA2407230889 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 3-A

[Text] M-19 [19 April Movement] General Commander Carlos Pizarro Leongomez has sent an open letter to Colombian President Virgilio Barco, former presidents Julio Cesar Turbay and Misael Pastrana, Patriotic Union President Bernardo Jaramillo, and to Episcopal Conference President Alfonso Lopez Trujillo from the M-19's camp in Santo Domingo. In his letter, Pizarro says that Article 218 of the Constitution must be amended to include a referendum to reform the Colombian Constitution.

The M-19 leader will select the procedure under which his group will lay down its weapons.

In his open letter, Pizarro says: "Only by consulting the supreme head of all Colombians—which is the people—will we be able to assess the peace process and find out exactly what the Colombian people want."

Pizarro called upon the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board to join the process and to contribute to a prompt return of coexistence in the country.

Pizarro met yesterday with Government adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda at the M-19's camp in Cauca Department to assess the dialogue and to plan the phases that will culminate in the reincorporation of the M-19 guerrillas into society.

Pizarro said that there is an urgent need to amend Article 218 of the Constitution to introduce a referendum to strengthen democracy and the peace process.

A joint statement was signed during the meeting with Pardo Rueda. The statement includes the proposed phases of the peace process. The parties agreed to create a new commission to discuss issues such as demobilization, guarantees for the M-19 militants as they rejoin mainstream society, and the time frame and dates for the implementation of each phase.

The new commission will also discuss issues relating to a pardon and political guarantees for M-19 leaders.

Pizarro confirmed his wish to participate in the upcoming elections and hinted that he might rejoin society after September 1989.

The M-19 also agreed to appoint new spokesmen—M-19 members who have no current legal charges pending against them—to attempt to arbitrate with the Rehabilitation Council, which has leveled charges against some M-19 members, and to ease the reincorporation of the armed movement's members into society.

13,000 People Killed in First Half of 1989

PA2407152089 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Summary] A report released by the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations [DIJIN] states that 13,000 people were killed during the first 6 months of 1989 as a result of rebel and paramilitary actions and the war among drug traffickers. The highest numbers of deaths have been reported in Uraba, departmental capital cities, and the middle Magdalena region.

The DIJIN report also says that a total of 160 persons are still in the hands of common criminals, guerrillas, and drug traffickers. In addition, 387 persons have been kidnapped in 1989.

The report adds that so far this year 374 dynamite attacks have been carried out against the oil industry, shopping centers, and private homes. The DIJIN stated that the most affected by the rebel attacks has been the Cano-Limon Covenas oil pipeline in northern Santander Department.

Inspectors for Military Forces Appointed

PA2407233789 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Jul 89 p 3-A

[Summary] General Farouk Yanine Diaz has been appointed inspector general of the military forces, and General Flavio Ramirez Jimenez Sanchez has been appointed inspector of the national Army.

Paraguay

Danish Citizens Arrested Carrying Weapons

PY2407150189 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Jul 89 p 19

[Text] Several Europeans are being questioned at the investigations department of the Asuncion police. They were arrested by presidential security personnel while the Expo-89 [industrial fair] was being inaugurated on 22 July. Even though no official report has been released, it has been learned that the detainees, who number 5 or 6, were carrying sophisticated arms. One of them reportedly had a 9-mm automatic pistol with 40 bullets. Among his belongings, the police reportedly found a pennant with a swastika, and anti-Semitic leaflets.

A source has said that the detainees are Danish and that they were arrested in the town of Mariano Roque Alonso by local security personnel.

Venezuela

Perez on Mexican Debt Accord, Debt Negotiations

PA2507015289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2336 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jul (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez praised today the agreement reached by Mexico with creditor banks, which is destined to reduce the Mexican commercial debt by 35 percent, although he stressed that he wishes to obtain a debt reduction in accordance with "what we think our country should obtain."

After the ceremony commemorating the 206th anniversary of the birth of liberator Simon Bolivar in Puerto Cabello, approximately 200 km west of Caracas, Perez told the press: "We do not yet know what the details of the agreement are, but we hope they are the best possible."

Perez, however, added: "I also want to tell you that Venezuela continues its negotiations without haste but also without slowness. We want to obtain what we think our country should obtain from this debt renegotiation."

Last week, the Venezuelan committee of negotiators said the private banks rejected a package of proposals that included a 50-percent reduction of the principal on the debt and the servicing of the debt and the capitalization of $550 million of interest, to begin with the 2d quarter of 1989.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas today said a 35-percent debt reduction is not a significant step in the economic recovery of any of the debtor countries and stated that the plan of U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady will only be successful if there is a more than 50-percent debt reduction.

The Venezuelan foreign debt is approximately $32.3 billion, of which $21.8 billion is owed to commercial banks.

The negotiations with Mexico, whose debt with about 500 banks totals $53 billion, are very important for Latin America's deeply indebted countries, because the agreement with Mexico is the first agreement reached within the parameters of the Brady plan.

Haitian Coup Leaders Arrive in Caracas 22 Jul

PA2407221789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2308 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Caracas, 23 Jul (AFP)—A police source confirmed today that former Haitian Colonels Philippe Biamby, Himler Rebus, and Leonce Qualo, who are accused of leading the coup attempt against General Prosper Avril in April, arrived in Venezuela on 22 July.

The former colonels, who are traveling with their families, had been in the United States since April, where they had requested but were denied political asylum.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera said that Biamby, Rebus, and Qualo have not asked for political asylum in Venezuela and that "they were simply extended courtesy visas for an indefinite period."

Tejera announced that the former officers would arrive on the night of 22 July from New York. However, that flight was canceled.

Police sources from Maiquetia Airport near Caracas nevertheless confirmed that the three former colonels arrived with their families on 22 July, although they did not disclose the name of the airline that they used or the time they arrived.

Also in Caracas under political asylum since 14 April is Colonel Guy Francois, another leader in the military uprising, against whom Haitian authorities began trial proceedings in absentia on 22 July.

Guyana

UK To Help Establish Securities Exchange

FL2407203189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1444 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 21, CANA—The Guyana Government says it is getting help from the British Government to push ahead with plans to design and establish its own national securities exchange in keeping with its desire to become a member of the proposed regional stock exchange.

The government has announced that with assistance from the British Overseas Development Association, it will establish a securities exchange in recognition of the need for appropriate institutional structures to support its economic recovery and development.

A statement from government's Public Communications Agency said that during a visit to Britain by President Desmond Hoyte, the British Government promised to help Guyana with consultancy services. A former member of the London Stock Exchange Council, Jonathan Miller, has since visited Guyana and has held consultations with a number of interested parties. Miller has submitted reports on the objectives of the proposed exchange, the choices to be made, and the required legal framework.

Among the primary objectives of the local exchange stated by the consultant would be: wider public participation in currently state-owned enterprises, redirection of human and other resources in the parallel market, facilitating effective implementation of the Caricom Enterprise Regime (CER), attracting foreign direct investment in Guyana—wider shareholdership and creation of a Guyanese financial services industry and self-financing stock exchange.

President Hoyte referred to plans for the stock exchange at a recent press conference, alluding to the decision of Caricom leaders to have the region proceed on a proposal by Jamaica for the establishment of a Caribbean stock exchange, as part of the development of the regional capital market.

The leader's decision at this month's Caricom summit in Grenada was that the three Caricom members with existing stock exchanges—Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago—would get together to establish the regional exchange, with other territories joining as they developed their own exchanges.

Suriname

Government Reaches Agreement With Rebels

FL2407182389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The so-called Jungle Command of Ronnie Brunswijk will be incorporated in the police force through a special department which is to be founded. The special police unit will be used to maintain order and peace in the interior and to support the traditional authority.

This is one of the most striking points agreed on in the accords which were signed last Friday between the government delegation and the delegation from the terrorist gang of Brunswijk. The accord is the result of 5 days of laborious negotiations between both delegations in Kourou, French Guiana.

In Kourou, other points have also been included among which are the repatriation of the homeless, the reconstruction and development of the interior, the freeing of the hostages by the Jungle Commando and amendment of the constitution at some point.

The government delegation, which has participated in the negotiations, was led by Education Minister Ronald Venetiaan. The delegation of the so-called Jungle Commando was led by terrorist leader Ronnie Brunswijk.

NDP Leader: Kourou Accord 'Declaration of War'

FL2407183989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The faction leader of the National Democratic Party, NDP, in the National Assembly, Frank Playfair, is of the opinion that the Kourou accords is a declaration of war against the Surinamese people. According to Playfair, the accord is aimed at the division of Suriname and legalizing an independent military force. The NDP top man has characterized the accord as a dangerous scenario aimed at the dissolution of the National Army.

Playfair noted that the special police force, which will be formed by the Brunswijk Gang, will be better armed and organized and will have more manpower.

The NDP faction leader spoke last Saturday during a workshop for party cadres. During the workshop, the NDP cadres denounced the Kourou Accords.

Playfair Proposes Vacating Seats

FL2407184889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] During a workshop for cadres of the National Democratic Party, NDP, last Saturday [22 July], the party denounced the Kourou Accords.

The NDP faction leader in the National Assembly, Frank Playfair, has proposed to vacate the three seats of the NDP in the National Assembly because he's of the opinion that the assembly doesn't function in accordance with the constitution. In the final conclusion of the workshop, the participants stated that the development treaty of 1975 has been violated. They demand that Suriname should take national and international measures to change this situation.

Furthermore, the NDP cadres have come to the conclusion that the current government has neglected the constitution and has through this created a serious crisis on political, military, and social-economic areas. The NDP workshop held last saturday examined the recent political developments and further construction of the party.

Trade Union Leader Returns From Netherlands

FL2407190489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Trade union leader Fred Derby has last week returned to Suriname after a 2-week visit to Holland. In Holland, Derby has led discussions with the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions, FNC, about the resumption of the development cooperation at the trade union movement level. Discussions took place on the order of the trade union federation, De Moederbond, the CLO [Public Servants Organization Central Council], the C-47, and the PWO [Progressive Employees Organization].

The development relation between the Dutch and Surinamese trade union movement was together with relation at the government level unilaterally suspended in 1982. [sentence as heard] The prospects for the restoration of these relations are, however, favorable, said Derby to our newsroom this morning.

In relation to this, the trade union federation wants to send a mission to Holland within a short time.

Trade union leader Fred Derby has also held talks with the Dutch branches of his trade union federation and the Suriname Labor Party. Today, he will report to the boards of the four trade union federations on the results of his visits.